

Foley to take over from Wright

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. House of Representatives elected Tom Foley, a widely respected Democrat from Washington state, as speaker Tuesday to replace Jim Wright, who resigned following a year-long battle against ethics charges. Foley took over the country's third most powerful legislative post in a ceremony that drew a record crowd of lawmakers and guests to the U.S. Capitol. Wright, who had been elected speaker in a landslide victory in 1987, announced his resignation last Wednesday, citing his "inability to continue in the position of speaker." He had been elected speaker in a landslide victory in 1987, and his resignation took effect with the election of Foley by a 251-164 party line vote. Democrats had earlier been divided by the abrupt announcement that party whip Tony Coelho planned to resign after questions had been raised about a "junk" bond purchase made with the help of the head of a thrift institution.

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Tumultuous welcome for King Hussein in Salt

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday paid a visit to Salt and opened a cultural centre and the Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Company (APM) factory and visited the Salt Development Corporation (SDC).

King Hussein received a warm public welcome where thousands of people were lined up along the streets. At Salt Cultural Centre, the first leg of his tour, SDC Director Jaafar Al Shami thanked King Hussein for his patronage of the centre's opening and said the King's personal attendance at the event constituted an invaluable moral support.

Shami reviewed the achievements of SDC and outlined its objectives.

The corporation, Shami said,

has succeeded in establishing a handicraft school in cooperation with the Italian government to train Jordanian citizens in weaving, pottery-making and ceramics.

He also referred to a proposal for setting up a pilot centre for the excellent students to prepare a generation of leaders capable of facing challenges.

Sheikh Sultan Al Odwan thanked the King for his support of the corporation's projects and said that it had directed special attention to restoring old build-

ings and the city's centre and to develop them for touristic purposes.

He noted that a project for the restoration of such sites had been initiated in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and a British company, which will be carrying out the project in cooperation with the RSS.

The corporation's director also thanked Sheikh Abdul Rahman Al Attiqi, the special advisor of Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, emir of Kuwait, and members of the Salt Friendship Society in Kuwait for their generous contributions to the corporation, noting that such contributions had amounted to approximately JD 1 million.

Also speaking at the ceremony was Dr. Fawzi Tu'aimeh, who

reviewed Jordan's achievements and voiced loyalty to Jordan under the leadership of King Hussein. Tu'aimeh also congratulated the government on the King's confidence saying that such confidence had enhanced the mutual confidence between the citizen and officials.

He wished the government every success in implementing the royal directives as contained in the letter of designation to the government of Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

At the end of the celebration, King Hussein conferred upon Sheikh Abdul Rahman Al Attiqi Jordan's Al Kawkab Medal of the First Order in recognition of his contributions towards SDC projects.

Attiqi praised King Hussein's pan-Arab efforts in unifying Arab ranks and in serving pan-Arab causes and thanked him for his



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday rides atop a car waving to the public during a visit to Salt (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

support of SDC projects.

At the Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Company's new drug factory, the company's director, Amin Sbuktair, expressed appreciation for the King's

support of drug industries in Jordan, saying that such support had contributed to the high standard of Jordanian drugs.

The King was accompanied on the visit by Prime Minister Sharif

Zaid, Royal Court Chief Thounqan Hindawi, King Hussein's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, King Hussein's private chamberlain, Deputy

Prime Minister Marwan Al Qasem, Public Security Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali and King Hussein's advisor for tribal affairs.

Khomeini buried after half-stripped in frenzy

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, his body earlier half-stripped in a frenzy of grief, was hastily and unceremoniously buried in a simple shallow grave in south Tehran Tuesday.

After nine hours of wild anguish of up to 10 million mourners, the gaunt body of Iran's supreme leader was finally laid to rest amid scuffles between Revolutionary Guards and Iranians beating themselves in sorrow.

Earlier the corpse had been airlifted from a funeral vehicle blocked by millions of black-clad, chanting people, the white shroud enveloping it ripped to shreds at the cemetery, and the burial officially postponed. Part of his pale body was exposed, including the scars of his final operation.

"Oh stars stop shining, oh rivers stop flowing," a distraught Iranian television commentator declared as the ayatollah's body was taken from an aluminium casket and placed in a shallow grave.

The tumultuous ceremony, shown live on Iranian television, reached its climax as a helicopter dubbed the horse of death by the sobbing newscaster bore the corpse of the 86-year-old Islamic revolutionary to the grave bawn in the hard earth of the Beheshti-Zahra cemetery in south Tehran.

A cannon marked the final moment on earth of the fiery leader who died Saturday of a heart attack after a 10 turbulent years at the head of a nation of 50 million people.

Amid scenes of mass hysteria, the huge crowd surrounding the grave beat their heads with their hands in an expression of grief and hurled dust on themselves, showing that they wanted to be buried with their revolutionary patriarch.

Mourners had earlier blocked the path of a van driving the body to the cemetery, grabbed the corpse out of an open wooden coffin and ripped the shroud into pieces for mementos of their revered leader.

The body was rewrapped, placed in a closed metal casket and airlifted to the cemetery. Khomeini was laid to rest next to Iranians killed in the revolution that toppled the Iranian monarchy in 1979, and soldiers killed in the eight-year Gulf war.

"The sun will not shine, as God is my witness, the sun will not shine, a storm is brewing, there is darkness everywhere," the television announcer said.

"O father, don't leave your children, O father don't leave your beloved," he added.

Several people were knocked unconscious in the crush both at the cemetery, and earlier at the Mosalla Mosque, where the nearly 10-hour funeral procession began with prayers at 7 a.m. (0330 GMT).

Ahmad appeared pale and drowsy, but conscious as he was boosted over the crowds and passed on from hand to hand to an ambulance outside the square. His black turban fell off.

The state media said the burial would be postponed as waves of mourners blocked all roads leading from the Mosalla Mosque to the cemetery, 35 kilometres to the south.

The hearse was stranded after covering only a kilometre two hours after began moving from the Mosalla Mosque. The media said if the roads were not cleared, it would be impossible to reach the cemetery before dusk.

Islam forbids burying the dead after nightfall. Revolutionary Guards and army soldiers fired in the air to make way for the hearse, but no one moved. The crowds cried: "We have lost our beloved father, teacher and leader."

"Let the sun not shine tomorrow, let it be forever night for us," they chanted.

A helicopter hovered low over the hearse until the crowds finally made room for it to land. But as the coffin was being carried onto the aircraft, the mourners grabbed the body and tore off the white shroud.

The uncovered corpse fell to the ground. It was whisked into an ambulance stranded near the hearse, rewrapped, and taken onto the helicopter again.

The helicopter landed at the cemetery but the crowds grabbed the wooden coffin again, forcing the aircraft to take off again with several people hanging from onto its landing sled. They let go after it was several metres off the ground.

The helicopter returned three

hours later carrying Khomeini in the closed metal casket.

Almost the entire population of Tehran turned out to bid Khomeini farewell. Millions more converged on the city from other regions, the official media reported, as funeral prayers began at the Mosalla Mosque.

Khomeini's body was wrapped in the Islamic republic flag and laid on the ground in the open air, as the white-bearded Ayatollah Mohammad-Reza Golpaygani prayed. Golpaygani, one of the four remaining senior ayatollahs in Iran, choked often and lifted his spectacles to wipe away tears with a handkerchief.

Ironically, Golpaygani was one of Khomeini's leading critics. A moderate, he had often criticised the republic's stand in the Gulf war, calling for a ceasefire with Iraq.

But Khomeini resisted a truce until last August, apparently hoping that the war will unite his nation against a common enemy at the time his Islamic fundamentalist rule domestic opposition.

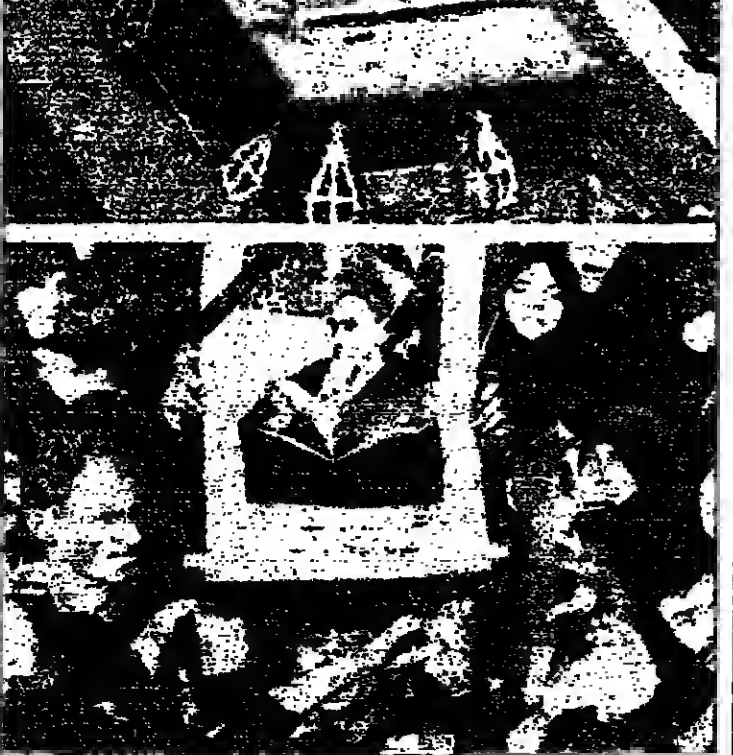
Egypt people died, some suffocated and others trampled under the feet of the mourners Monday.

About two million frenzied mourners had kept a night-long candle-lit vigil around the hier.

Khomeini died of a heart attack, 11 days after intestinal surgery, without resolving the problem of who would succeed him.

He left a 29-page "political testament," extracts of which were read over Tehran radio by his son Monday.

These parts denounced the 2,500-year monarchy rule before the 1979 revolution, cautioned against American conspiracies and insulted Arab leaders.



(Top) Ayatollah Khomeini lies in state at Tehran's Mosalla Square for public viewing Monday. (Bottom) Mourners flagellate themselves while viewing the body.

Jordan invited to Fao ceremony

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received a message from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. The message was delivered by Iraqi Minister of Transport and Communications Mohammad Hameed Al Zaidi, who was received in an audience at Al Nadwa Palace. The audience was attended by the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Amman.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the message contained an invitation to the King to delegate a representative to attend inauguration ceremonies for the reconstruction of the war-battered Fao peninsula.

In a statement upon arrival here, Hamzeh said that the message to the King also dealt with relations between Jordan and Iraq.

During his stay in Jordan, Hamzeh also will take part in the general assembly meeting of the Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company (IJLTC), which is due to open in Amman Wednesday, and the board meeting Thursday of the Arab Maritime Bridge Company which groups Iraq, Jordan and Egypt.

Hamzeh is one of four Iraqi envoys who are carrying invitations for Arab leaders to attend inauguration ceremonies for reconstruction of Fao. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said the envoys will visit the Arab countries in North Africa and the Gulf, as well as North Yemen and Egypt.

INA said the envoys were the ministers of justice, transportation and Islamic affairs.

The fourth was foreign minister Tariq Aziz, who doubles as deputy prime minister.

Rebuilding the southern town of Fao, is a major step in Iraq's reconstruction effort, after a ceasefire halted its war with Iran Aug. 20. The reconstruction will be officially started later this month.

Israelis break up funeral

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Dozens of helmeted Israeli policemen fired tear-gas to disperse Palestinian demonstrators attending the funeral of a Palestinian resistance activist and Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian in the occupied Gaza Strip.

The clash occurred in the village of Beit Lahia where doctors said one Palestinian was killed and two were wounded, one seriously.

Palestinian reporters said the clash erupted after troops tried to reimpose a curfew on the village of 13,000 after distributing new, computerised identity cards to residents.

The army temporarily lifted curfews in Beit Lahia and the Gaza Strip town of Beit Hanoun to distribute the permits, which all Palestinians will be required to

carry in order to enter Israel. Palestinians detained for "security" reasons or convicted of "serious crimes" will be denied the entry permits.

Doctors identified the dead man as Jamil Hafez Suleiman, 22, and said he was shot in the head.

The death raised to 507 the number of Palestinians killed in the 18-month uprising.

In Jerusalem, about 2,000 mourners waved dozens of Palestinian flags at the funeral of Omar Al Qassem, 48, a senior figure in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP). Qassem died Sunday while serving a life sentence for his role in a 1968 resistance operation.

Israel Radio said 20 Palestinians were detained following a stone-throwing protest that erupted after the three-hour pro-

cession and funeral through Arah Jerusalem.

Reporters at the scene watched police fire tear-gas to disperse the demonstrators, who left the funeral shouting, "We are the fedayeen."

White clouds of tear-gas billowed at the entrance to the cemetery on the edge of the walled Old City, sending dozens of mourners and reporters fleeing the acrid, stinging fumes.

Green-uniformed border police also fired two shots of tear-gas at Palestinians to force them to remove dozens of the green-black-and-white flags they hoisted during the march.

Among the marchers were dozens of small children who flashed "Victory" signs and wore clothing in the colours of the Palestinian banner.

Mourners vowed to increase

their opposition to the occupation and carried signs saying: "Escalating the intifada will redeem Omar Qassem's blood."

Two Israeli Arab legislators led the procession. One of them, Abdul Wahab Daroushe, told the mourners after Qassem's body was lowered into the grave: "In spite of Israel's arrogance, the intifada will be victorious."

Throughout the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Palestinians observed a spontaneous commercial strike to mourn Qassem. In Bethlehem, activists forced merchants who were unaware of the strike to close their shops.

In the Gaza Strip, the army maintained a general curfew for a third straight day and began issuing the computerised identity cards.

Chinese soldiers fight each other

PEKING (Agencies) — Soldiers of armies loyal to rival political factions fought each other in the streets of the capital Tuesday following the weekend military crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators.

A Chinese witness said soldiers of the 28th army, believed loyal to ousted Communist Party General Secretary Zhao Ziyang, exchanged tank and small arms fire Tuesday afternoon in western Peking with the 27th army.

A soldier of the Peking-based 38th army said it was fired upon by the 27th army, also on the west side.

The 27th army invaded central Peking Saturday night to crush the demonstrators and has been fortifying its positions around Tiananmen Square.

Troops and tanks from the 28th and 38th armies were positioned around the western and eastern flanks of the 27th army Tuesday night.

Hundreds of people came out to cheer soldiers of the 38th army in western Peking, offering the troops cigarettes and shaking their hands.

"The 28th and 38th armies are the people's armies," one man said. "The 27th army is a bunch of bandits."

However, some people on the street expressed concern that sol-

diers were masquerading as 38th army troops in order to facilitate their passage up the avenue.

Defiance against sanctions

China's chief spokesman defiantly told the world that it was not afraid of sanctions.

Yuan Mu, spokesman for the state council (cabinet), said in a televised speech that even if the sanctions, caused China some problems, the country could still get by.

"Some countries and governments are attacking us, a few won't give us this or give us that, they are talking about restrictions and sanctions," Yuan Mu said. "But we are not afraid," he added, his voice rising sharply. "No matter what methods they use to interfere in our internal affairs."

Many world leaders have issued statements deploring the use of force by the Chinese authorities against pro-democracy students and their supporters.

President Bush said Monday that the United States would stop all sales of military equipment to China in protest against the assault on Peking.

Foreigners flee

Though clashes in Peking

appeared on Tuesday fewer than in previous days, with defiant student activists and their supporters awaiting the military's next move, the cities of Shanghai, Wuhan, Manking and Lanzhou saw widespread disruption.

Shanghai's municipal radio called the situation in China's largest city the worst since the 1949 communist takeover, with production seriously hit by what it called sabotage.

Spokesman Yuan Mu said on television the situation in the capital was very grim.

"The efforts to put down the counter-revolutionary riots in Peking have scored an initial success, but the riots have not yet been completely suppressed," Yuan said.

In the first official version of the carnage in Tiananmen Square, Yuan said the known death toll was nearly 300, most of them soldiers with only 23 students confirmed killed.

That figure contradicted accounts from many witnesses who speak of huge loss of life both on the square, where the unarmed students made their last stand Sunday morning, and in many other incidents in other areas.

Senior military officer Zhang Gong told viewers that not a single student had died when the

Tens of thousands of demonstrators were reported by residents blocking all roads into Lanzhou, a key military and industrial centre in the northwest. In the central city of Wuhan, demonstrators for the third successive day blocked the vital north-south rail line linking Peking with southern China.

A western resident in Chengdu, in the southwestern province of Sichuan, said troops moved Sunday against large crowds of demonstrators protesting about the Peking bloodshed.

Leaders "disappear"

Premier Li Peng, who declared martial law in Peking May 20, has not been seen in public since he met three new ambassadors on May 25 and said the government was "stable".

Deng has been out of sight since he met Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev May 16.

Zhao, reported fired for showing sympathy toward students seeking political reform, was last seen on Tiananmen Square May 19, where he had gone to meet student hunger strikers. He is said to be under house arrest.

Defence Minister Qin Jiwei, also unseen in weeks, may have been ousted from office for opposing martial law.

Beirut shelling ebbs amid Arab expectations

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Shelling ebbed in Beirut Tuesday after overnight clashes between forces loyal to army commander Michel Aoun and Syrian-backed Lebanese militias as attention remained rivetted in Morocco, where three Arab leaders Sunday called for an immediate ceasefire and peaceful negotiations to end the 15-year-old Lebanese civil war.

Police said six people were wounded in a brief firefight between gunmen in east Beirut over gasoline filling priorities.

Police said nine people were wounded in overnight artillery exchanges between Aoun's army units and gunmen in Beirut and the surrounding hills.

That raised the overall casualty toll to 363 people killed and 1,430 wounded since March 8, when the current round of violence broke out over a blockade imposed by Aoun on illegal ports run by militias south of Beirut.

A police spokesman said the latest casualties were four civilians injured in the shelling of the Christian coastline north of Beirut and five civilians wounded in the shelling by Aoun's gunners of hills southeast of Beirut.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz held talks in Morocco Tuesday focusing on Lebanese peace proposals drawn up by the three-man Arab heads of state committee headed by King Hassan, official sources said.

King Hassan said Monday the committee was Lebanon's last chance and appealed to all parties to the conflict to support its work.

Iraq backs Aoun while Syria supports a rival government led by acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss.

Last month's Arab summit in Casablanca made little headway on Lebanon, but set up the heads of state committee to try to get talks moving on political reforms.

King Hassan declined to give any details of the proposals which he drew up with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Algerian President Chadli Benjedid. But he said no party in the dispute had reacted negatively.

Official sources said foreign

ministers of the three countries would meet in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to finalise details of the plan before going to Damascus, Beirut, Baghdad and then Moscow.

After its first meeting Sunday, the committee issued a statement urging the international community to help to force Israel to withdraw from its self-declared buffer zone in South Lebanon.

King Hassan told a press conference Monday there was no comparison at all between the Syrian and the Israeli military presence in Lebanon.

He said Syria's withdrawal would come as part of the process of bringing stability to the country, but it was absolutely essential

to organise a quick Israeli withdrawal.

"If ever the Syrian troops were to withdraw from one day to the next we would fall into catastrophe worse than the one through which we are living today," he said.

Aoun, who declared a "war of liberation" in March against Syria and its estimated 40,000 troops in Lebanon, said Monday he would seek the help of the United Nations if Arab efforts failed to end the conflict.

"If the Arab League fails in solving the Lebanese crisis, I will go to the United Nations... if the United Nations fails, I will seek other choices to restore my country's sovereignty," he said.

Mitterrand: Mutual recognition key to peace

TUNIS (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand, on a two-day state visit to Tunisia, has said the path to Middle East peace lay through mutual recognition by Israel and the Palestinians, followed by an international conference.

"(I am convinced) that neither of the two adversaries can deny to the other what it legitimately demands for itself: the right to recognition and security for the state of Israel and the right to a homeland and self-determination for the Palestinians," he said in an after-dinner speech Monday.

Mitterrand said the problems were "so complex that we dare not hope this bilateral dialogue could cover them in full."

through oases on the Algerian border, said an international conference would make it easier for the parties to talk and guarantee any agreements they reached.

Israel rejects the idea of an international conference and the United States has reservations.

The Arab League summit in Casablanca, which proposed an international conference on the basis of U.N. resolutions 242 and 338, as positive. The resolutions indirectly recognise Israel's right to exist.

He added: "Other steps must be taken to clear away the mistrust which has accumulated after 40 years of intransigence between those who have no choice but to speak to each other."

Mitterrand made an unexpected reference to Tunisia's ousted leader Habib Bourguiba, wishing him "a long and peaceful retirement after a life of struggle."

Bourguiba, who ruled for more than 30 years until Ibn Ali had him declared senile, now lives in Monastir, his home town on the coast south of Tunis.

Mitterrand's visit follows the settlement of France's last remaining dispute with its former colony — over compensation for former French residents around the northern city of Bizerte.

He was due to have a second round of talks with Ibn Ali before holding a news conference and leaving for home after dinner.

Khomeini supporters shut down west Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Life came to a standstill in west Beirut Tuesday in mourning for Iranian patriarch Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Shiite Muslim districts in Beirut and its southern slums were decorated with black flags and posters of Khomeini, 86, who died of a heart attack Saturday in Tehran.

The Lebanese, suffering from a chronic power shortage caused by three months of clashes, cranked up generators to follow Khomeini's funeral live on the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation, run by right-wing militias.

Mosque read verses from the Koran, as thousands of mourners flooded the Iranian embassy in Beirut's suburb of Ouzai to deliver condolences.

Cars mounted with loudspeakers toured the streets urging businesses to close.

Banks and other private businesses that opened after observing a one-day closure sent back their employees and shut again.

"Close, close," shouted a bearded man from a white Peugeot car that drove across west Beirut's Hamra commercial thoroughfare flying the Iranian flag and reading verses from the Koran.

"Sure, sure," replied a grocer as he lowered his shutter. The car drove away and the grocer murmured: "Last year it was a strike to mark the Israeli invasion's anniversary. I wonder whether we'll be alive next June 6 to observe a strike for any reason."

The numerous Palestinian factions in Lebanon marked the invasion's anniversary by issuing separate statements condemning Israel.

Qadhafi pays tribute
Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi described Khomeini as a revolutionary mystic in a tribute to the Iranian leader, Libya's JANA news agency said Tuesday.

Qadhafi signed a book of condolences at the Iranian embassy in Tripoli, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) quoted JANA as saying.

Despite the Iran-Iraq war which was a black page in the history of contemporary Islam... (Khomeini was)... a great prophet and mystic of revolution, as well as being a staunch foe of imperialism, Zionism and world arrogance."

"The name of Imam Khomeini will forever be engraved in Islamic history," the BBC, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Qadhafi as saying.

But he said there were "differences of opinion on the time of (Khomeini's) emergence as well as domestic and international events at that time."

Bush, Bhutto agree on Afghan approach

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said after talks with U.S. President George Bush Tuesday that the two leaders agree on policies needed to bring peace to Afghanistan.

Pakistan "remains committed to a political solution of the problem under which the brave people of Afghanistan will have the right to freely choose their own government without interference from outside," the prime minister said after a 19-minute White House meeting with Bush.

The fighting that has continued since the Soviet military pullout last February and the presence of more than three million refugees in Pakistan threaten the security of the region, she said.

Bhutto also declared support for U.S. efforts to avert a nuclear arms race in Southern Asia and to halt the flow of narcotics to the West.

Bhutto said she assured Bush of her continuing effort towards maintaining peace in the South Asian region and our determination to strengthen the process of nuclear non-proliferation through accords both bilaterally and internationally in a regional context.

Pakistan, which has been working with the United States to reduce the growing of opium, a source of heroin, has already achieved some success and much remains to be done, she said.

Bush said during the departure ceremony that he and Bhutto discussed ways to encourage a political solution in Afghanistan that will produce "a non-aligned, representative Afghan government willing to live in peace with its neighbours."

Neither leader gave details of the proposed political solution but both have earlier stated that the current Soviet-backed president, Najibullah, must be excluded from a future government.

Bush praised Pakistan for "extraordinary" humanitarian efforts in caring for the Afghan refugees in its territory.

Bush said that in electing her prime minister last year, the first woman leader of a Muslim country, Pakistan's people "have given a verdict against tyranny and for freedom, progress and human dignity, for justice and for the rule of law."

She said she had come "with new priorities to talk to the world's greatest democracy... on the economic, social and educational needs of our people."

As photographers snapped photos, Bush and Bhutto leaders joked about their Ivy League college rivalries. Bush attended Yale University, while Bhutto was educated at Harvard.

"Your visit marks an occasion to renew ties of friendship between democratic Pakistan and the United States, and to chart new ways to strengthen old bonds in the many years to come," Bush told Bhutto.

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Bush urges Iran to help free hostages

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President George Bush has called on the new Iranian government to help release American hostages if it wants improved relations with the United States.

Egyptian sentenced to life for spying for Israel

CAIRO (AP) — A court-martial has convicted an Egyptian teacher of spying for Israel and sentenced him to life in prison at hard labour, the first such case reported since the two countries made peace 10 years ago.

Lebanon's rightist enclave — a ghost town without gas

JOUNIEH — The once-bustling Christian enclave north of Beirut has become a ghost town. Daily shelling by rival forces for 11 weeks has driven most residents into underground shelters and sapped the life from the region once known as the Monte Carlo of the Middle East.

The barrages have eased since the Arab League called for a ceasefire May 11, but a gas shortage has paralysed the region.

"If it's not shelling, it's gas, and if it's not gas, it's something else," complained Samira Khater, a secretary.

An air of stupor hangs over the 800-square-kilometre enclave, home to an estimated one million people, mostly Christian.

There is almost no traffic. Business is slow. Factories that survived the ferocious shelling limp along with skeleton staffs and whatever fuel they can scrounge.

Restaurants are lucky if they get 10 customers a day. Half the shops, hidden behind sandbags and earth-filled old ruins, are shuttered.

The night life that once thrived in the clubs, bars and restaurants along the Mediterranean coastline is dead.

The people in Beirut are tired and dispirited, struggling to cope with a grim fatalism.

Syrian forces and their Lebanese militia allies maintain their blockade of the enclave, ringed on its landward sides by hostile forces.

Small cargo ships run the gauntlet of shellfire to bring in food and ammunition for the besieged people. Supermarkets bulge with imported goods — pink champagne, passion fruit tea, 10 brands of whisky, cookies, chocolates, hams and cheeses.

Others blame Aoun for plunging them into a David-and-Goliath struggle they cannot win.

First Libyan passenger plane in 10 years lands in Cairo

CAIRO (Agencies) — A Libyan plane landed in Cairo Monday for the first time in a decade and passengers were greeted with flowers and embraces.

Cairo and Tripoli, ideological foes since the early 1970s, unofficially reopened their border last Monday.

"I missed Egypt. I dreamed of coming here. This is not my flight, but I insisted on being on it and coming here," said Fathi Sowailam, one of the aircraft's engineers.

The Boeing 727, carrying 87 Egyptian and 38 Libyan passengers, made the first direct flight from Tripoli to Cairo since 1979.

Libyan pilot Captain Fathi Badr said he was happy to be able to land a plane in Egypt again.

"For 12 years, I have not been in Egypt. I have flown over it, but not landed in it," he told Reuters.

The border was reopened less than a week after President Hosni Mubarak and Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi held rapprochement talks during an emergency Arab summit in Morocco.

On Sunday Mubarak's son Gamal met Qadhafi as part of a series of steps to improve relations, government sources said.

Gamal, 26, was part of an Egyptian delegation representing different ministries which visited Libya Sunday, they added.

The national carrier Egypt Air advertised that it would resume daily flights to Libya Thursday.

Libyan Airlines intend to have six flights a week to Cairo as a start.

As a Libyan team filed out of the Libyan Arab Airlines plane Monday for reconciliation talks with Egyptian officials, a girl and a boy dressed in richly ornamented Libyan costumes handed out flowers.

Passengers beamed as airport officials helped the young, old and sick down the stairs. Nadia Nasr, 28, an Egyptian woman married to a Libyan, said she and other passengers danced and ululated as they approached Cairo airport.

"I am so happy to come home on a direct flight," she said. "It was such a hassle to transit via Malta or Greece."

A 67-year-old Libyan sitting beside his sick wife in the airport lounge said he had not been to Egypt since 1979.

"As soon we heard that flights had resumed, we decided to come. My wife needs treatment," said Mohammad Amer Abn-Husein.

"Egypt is our home," he said with a smile, exposing silver capped teeth.

The Libyan agency JANA said Monday Gamal Mubarak visited Qadhafi's house wrecked in a U.S. bombing raid on the Libyan capital April 15, 1986. JANA said he signed a guest book denouncing "U.S. imperialism" evidenced by the attack.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) had not disclosed the younger Mubarak's presence in the official delegation that flew Sunday to Libya.

JANA quoted Mubarak's son as saying the team's discussions were "fraternal and frank."

MENA reported that Libyan officials "expressed hope for a resumption of meetings on all levels."

Sources in Egypt's Foreign Ministry said Monday that Jadhah Al Azouq Al Talhi, the Libyan foreign minister, will visit Cairo June 20. He would be the highest ranking Libyan in the Egyptian capital in years, but Qadhafi's cousin and intelligence chief, Ahmad Gaddafi Al Dam, said Sunday Libyan leader also plans to come.

The JANA report said young Mubarak inscribed in Qadhafi's guest book a denunciation of "the aggressive act launched by the U.S. imperialism" against Libya.

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JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children's programmes
17:25	Programme on arts
17:30	Programme on world news
18:00	News summary in Arabic
18:05	Cairo News Message
18:45	Local programme
19:20	Common mistakes
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Wrestling
22:30	Varieties programme
23:00	News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:30	Les Piques Assietes
18:35	Des Ombres Et de Lentes
19:00	News in French
19:15	Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Carol Burnett
21:10	Doc. "The Great Rift"
22:00	News in English
22:30	Blue Grass
PRAYER TIMES	
05:51	Fajr
07:25	(Sunrise) Duha
12:34	Dhuhr
16:15	Asr
19:44	Maghreb

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

	Min./max. temp.
Amman	19 / 36
Aqaba	24 / 40
Deserts	18 / 37
Jordan Valley	23 / 40

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 34, Aqaba 39. Humidity readings: Amman 23 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Abdul Qader Al Lala	896046
Dr. Abdul Rahim Ahmad	744685
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad	846070
Dr. Ali As'ad	897919
Firas pharmacy	661912
Firas pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	637055
Nairookh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660

IRBID:	
Dr. Muhammad Sharaa	(-)
Al Sharaa pharmacy	(985328)

ZARQA:	
Dr. Ziad Salim	(-)

Khalifeh pharmacy	985417
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EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blotblank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467

Amman Municipality	
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information	
(directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	
Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-33320
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-33320

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:	
Husseini Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	644281/6
Abdel Maternity, J. Amn.	642412
Libal Amman Maternity	623262
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	664173/4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Munasser Hospital	667277/9
The Islamic, Abdali	665127/37
Al-Ahl, Abdali	661646/6
Italian, Al-Muhajirun	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Asrafieh	775112/6
Army, Marka	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Anat Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarga Govt. Hospital	(09)893323
Zarga National Hospital	(09)891071
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)896732
IRBID:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272755
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital	(02)271000
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
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This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)33200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00	Damascus (RJ)
12:10	Aqaba (RJ)
12:15	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:30	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:40	London (RJ)
13:45	Cairo (RJ)
14:45	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
15:45	Larnaca (RJ)
16:45	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
17:20	Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
17:45	Cairo (RJ)
18:00	Riyadh (RJ)
18:05	New York, Vienna (RJ)
18:20	Paris (RJ)
18:45	London, Geneva (RJ)
18:55	Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
19:40	Madrid, Rome (RJ)
19:50	Istanbul, Athens (RJ)
20:45	Belgrade, Bucharest (RJ)
01:15	Baghdad (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

05:20	Dubai (AZ)
13:00	Benghazi (LY)
13:00	Baghdad (IA)
14:05	Cairo (MS)

13:15	Sana'a, Jeddah (Y)
13:20	Cairo (MS)
14:30	Kuwait (KU)
14:55	Kuwait (KU)
16:45	Medina, Jeddah (SV)
17:25	Sana'a (LI)
19:25	Frankfurt (LH)
21:05	Thripoli, Damascus (AF)
22:30	Paris, Damascus (AF)
01:00	Tunis (TU)

14:15	Jeddah, Sana'a (Y)
15:35	Kuwait (KU)
16:45	Kuwait (KU)
18:45	Medina, Jeddah (SV)
20:25	Sana'a (LI)
22:05	Karachi (PK)
02:00	Dubai (TU)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jls per kg.

Apple	700 / 600
Apricot	800 / 700
Banana	320 / 320
Banana (Mekdammar)	370 / 270
Beans	350 / 450
Cabbage	600 / 40
Carrots	120 / 80
Cauliflower	220 / 160
Chickpeas	1100 / 300
Cherry (red)	350 / 300
Cherry (green)	140 / 100
Corn	220 / 160
Cucumber	500 / 400
Eggplant	120 / 80
Garlic	600 / 500
Grapes	350 / 300
Grapes (black)	350 / 300
Lemon	480 / 300
Lettuce (per one)	80 / 50
Marrow (large)	160 / 140
Marrow (small)	160 / 140
Onion	320 / 260
Orange	90 / 70
Pepper (hot)	380 / 320
Pepper (sweet)	480 / 400
Potato	220 / 200
Tomatoes	120 / 80
Watermelon	140 / 30

دليل الحياة

Jordan to assemble eight helicopters

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan Technology Group (JTG) will sign an agreement with the Schweizer Aircraft Corporation of the U.S. next month in Paris paving the way for the assembly of light-weight helicopters in Amman to be used for training, aerial photography, agricultural spraying and passenger transport, a JTG manager said Tuesday.

The 50-50 joint-venture would initially allow for the assembly of eight 15-30 helicopters during the first year, and would pave the way for the co-production of up to 18 additional helicopters during the project's third year, Leith Al Qassem told the Jordan Times in an interview.

The four-seater helicopter, which Qassem said, would be priced at approximately \$389,000, would be sold in the Middle East, a market capable of absorbing 300 or so of the light-weight machines.

Between 30 to 40 per cent of the work would be done in Jordan, Qassem said, "but that would mostly cover the airframe

rather than the engines, rotors or the avionics."

The helicopters, samples of which he exhibited at Paris "Le Bourget" international air show, should earn Jordan badly needed foreign currency and create jobs for Jordanians, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said.

Petra said the expertise and skilled manpower available at Jordan's four universities and the Royal Scientific Society would be employed in the manufacture of the new helicopters.

The JTG, a private shareholding company, was established in 1988 to make use of Jordan's comparative advantage of low-cost, high-skilled labour.

According to Qassem, since Schweizer's own facilities in the U.S. are not large enough to produce quantities required by the market, the company looked to Jordan for such a joint venture, especially in view of the Kingdom's developed infrastructure and high-skilled labour.

JTG's very first project involved local assembly of personal computers and its next project is expected to be in the agriculture sector.



Her Majesty Queen Noor presents an award to a veteran nurse at a ceremony held Tuesday to honour a group of 19 nurses and midwives for their long service to Jordan (Petra photo)

Veteran nurses, midwives honoured for their services

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of 19 female nurses and midwives was honoured Tuesday for their long services to the Kingdom at a special ceremony.

Her Majesty Queen Noor attended the ceremony and presented gifts and awards to the veterans who have spent at least 25 years in the profession. The Queen received from the president of the Jordanian Nurses Association (JNA) a token gift in recognition of her support and encouragement for nurses and the nursing profession in Jordan.

Health Minister Zuhair Malhas, who attended the ceremony, said in a speech that nursing was one of the most essential primary health services in the community. Malhas reviewed the development of the profession in the Kingdom and said nurses and midwives were now receiving training at six colleges, which turn out a total of 450 graduates annually, increasing to an expected 550 in the coming year.

Despite the increasing number of graduates, Jordan is still short of sufficient number of nurses and midwives, and at least 4,000 are needed to serve the country by the year 2000, Malhas said.

Over the past six years, the number of nurses increased by 185 per cent while the number of midwives rose by 170 per cent. The total number of nurses today is 2,121, he said. Twenty five per cent of the total number of nurses employed in the country are non-Jordanian, he added.

He expressed hope that by the end of the century Jordan would have graduated enough nurses to meet the Kingdom's needs.

Ministry of Agriculture draws up foresting plan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture wants to change its name to agricultural production ministry, since the focus of its task is increasing food production in the country.

Following a tour of agricultural projects in the Balqa region, the minister said that the ministry would soon lay down a clear agricultural policy to help Jordanian farmers counter competition on foreign markets.

The minister referred to the agricultural cropping pattern adopted in the Jordan Valley, and said new ideas would be introduced designed to open new markets abroad for Jordan's products and further measures would be taken to process surplus crops. Jordan's crops will continue to find their way to the European Common Market, and the Gulf countries, Badran added.

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Aqaba bypass work in final phase

AOABA (J.T.) — Minister of Public Works and Housing Shafiq Zaidi Tuesday announced progress of work on a 14-kilometre road linking Aqaba Port with Wadi Al Yittem bypassing the main highway to the port city.

The JD 6.5 million project entails building three bridges at crossroads. It is being carried out by a local construction firm with supervision from the Ministry of Public Works.

Work on the project started in 1987 and according to Ministry of Public Works officials, work has entered the final phase.

Once the road is completed, incoming or outgoing trucks will be able to avoid the congested roads in the port city, the officials said.

The 32-kilometre-long road has been financed through loans from the Kuwait Fund for Economic and Social Development and the Saudi Development Fund.

Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) President Bassam Qagish said the project entails reorganising entries to the city and involves the removal of garages and workshops from their present location. Subsequently all trucks and large vehicles will be barred from entering the city. The new road will also contribute to ARA's effort to reduce pollution.

Anti-smoking seminar studies practical action

AMMAN (J.T.) — Health Minister Zuhair Malhas Tuesday called for practical measures to persuade people to give up smoking and to encourage tobacco growers to plant other crops.

In a speech at a one-day seminar at the Police Academy in Amman, Malhas said: "What is needed now is the imposition of an extra fee on producing and marketing of tobacco and heavier and stricter penalties for tobacco smugglers."

Working papers discussed at the seminar, organised by the Health Ministry and the Public Security Department (PSD), covered a variety of topics ranging from the dangers of smoking for pregnant mothers to the adverse effect of smoking on socio-economic activities.

Malhas highlighted the health hazards associated with smoking and the adverse impact of the habit of social life and economic activities and attacked advertisements placed by tobacco manufacturers in the media.

"While the habit of smoking continues to decline at the rate of one per cent in advanced nations, the number of smokers is growing at the rate of two per cent in the developing world as a result of these commercials and temptations that go with them," the minister said. "People of the developing world are facing more-and-more the consequences of



Zuhair Malhas

smoking in the form of diseases that affect the whole body and all ages of society," he added.

Malhas referred to the Ministry of Health's 1977 Smoking Law and said that it had been enforced in Jordan since last March banning smoking in public places such as hospitals, restaurants and airport lounges.

A group of senior PSD officers and representatives of various organisations in the country attended the seminar, which was split into three sessions and reviewed working papers.

The seminar was held one week after the day designated by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a "no-tobacco day" and which was marked in Jordan through lectures, seminars and gatherings.

The Health Ministry launched a campaign on that day, May 31, to enhance public awareness of the dangers associated with smoking. The campaign included distribution of posters and pamphlets, broadcasting radio and television messages and publication of features in the press.

Symposium reviews ACC economic ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — A symposium opened here Tuesday on scopes of economic cooperation among the four founding states of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) — Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen.

Addressing the gathering, organised by the Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia (ESCWA), and attended by Arab politicians and economists, ESCWA Secretary General Tayseer Abdul Jaber stressed the need for utilising the experiences of inter-Arab coordination and cooperation and the Arab economic integration in charting the way for ACC cooperation. Such experiences, Abdul Jaber said,

will do away with repetition of past mistakes and will contribute to accelerating economic achievements. He noted that there were positive aspects of cooperation within the framework of the Arab League, "which can be clearly reflected in the establishment of specialised organisations and financial institutions, setting up Arab investment projects and movement of labour force."

Abdul Jaber pointed out that the best method for activating the roles of Arab cooperation blocs, including the ACC, was to coordinate economic policies and steer clear from theoretical approaches and to avoid emulating the experiences of industrialised countries.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

SUDAN'S APPRECIATION: The Sudanese minister of social welfare and relief has voiced his government's appreciation to Jordan, for its support of Sudan, which is channelled through the Jordanian National Committee for Solidarity with Sudan, chaired by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. The appreciation was contained in a letter addressed to the rapporteur of the committee (Petra).

PREACHERS GRADUATE: The Islamic Science College, which is operated by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Tuesday turned out 56 graduates in preaching at mosques and reciting the Koran. The graduation ceremony was attended by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, who made a speech underlining the important role of preachers in providing spiritual guidance.

INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT: Jordan will take part Saturday in meetings of the Arab Company for Industrial Investment's general assembly, which will discuss the company's activities during the year 1988 and its current budget and last year's final accounts. Taking part in the meetings will be representatives of Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Libya, Qatar, North Yemen, Tunisia and Morocco (Petra).

ILTC MEETING: The board of directors of the Iraq-Jordanian Land Transport Company (ILTC) opened a meeting here Tuesday to discuss financial and administrative affairs of the company and its operations for 1989. The meeting will prepare a final report to be submitted to the company's general assembly meeting which will convene here Wednesday (Petra).

NEUROSCIENCES SOCIETY: The general assembly of the Jordan Neurosciences Society Tuesday elected a new administrative committee headed by Dr. Ishaq Maraga. The committee includes Dr. Murtada Dahadaleh as vice chairman, Dr. Yousef Ureigat as secretary, Dr. Hussein Rushid as treasurer, Dr. Ibrahim Subeih as rapporteur of the scientific committee, Dr. Nassef Khouri as rapporteur of the social committee and Dr. Jihad Barghouti as rapporteur of the information committee (Petra).

JERUSALEM COMMITTEE: A Royal Decree has been issued appointing Culture and Information Minister Nasouh Majali as a member in the Royal Commission for Jerusalem Affairs (Petra).

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An archaeological exhibition entitled "The Treasures of Hasma Desert" at the Department of Antiquities Registration Centre.
- * An art exhibition by three North African artists at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.
- * An art exhibition by Ahmad Abu Othman at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- * An exhibition by French artist "Olivier Mutiland" at the French Cultural Centre.
- * An art exhibition by Jordanian and Arab artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- * An art exhibition by Nihad Qataishat at Al Quds (Jerusalem) Hotel.
- * An art exhibition entitled "Tents and Stones" by Samia Al Zaru at Alia Art Gallery.
- * An art exhibition entitled "Study in Line and Colour" by Dodi Tabaa at the Petra Bank Art Gallery.
- * An exhibition of paintings by mentally handicapped children at Nazek Al Hariri Special Education Centre.
- * The annual flower exhibition of YWCA at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel.

FILM

- * A French film entitled "Femmes de Personne" at the French Cultural Centre.

Nine receive FCE from British Council

AMMAN (J.T.) — Amman British Council Representative Miles Roddis Tuesday presented the University of Cambridge's First Certificate in English (FCE) to nine students at the British Council Teaching Centre.

It was the second time the FCE had been taken in the Kingdom; the results of the December 89 exam have been very encouraging, the council said in a statement.

Two students — Ghassan Tayseer Wahbeh and Fayez Abu Awad — received grade A. Mr. Antony Jones, director of studies at the British Council in Amman, commented: "The results were very satisfactory and we hope to continue the success in the June 1989 exam. The British Council has a long tradition of involvement and cooperation with Jordanian education."

Three Maghreb masters — each impressive on his own

By Nelly Lana
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An exhibition of abstract art done by three world-renowned artists from the Arab Maghreb is on at the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation until June 16. Organised jointly by the foundation and the Department of Modern Art of the Paris-based "Institut du Monde Arabe," the exhibition includes the works of Abdullah Ibn Antar of Algeria, Mohammed Kacimi from Morocco and Rafik Al Kamel from Tunisia.

It is imperative to realise that the aim of the Institut du Monde Arabe is to introduce Arab art, literature and culture as a whole, to the French public, and cultural exchange through the translation of Arab books into French as well as arranging for Arab artists to exhibit in France. That is why, after the inauguration of the exhibition under royal patronage, Jordanian artists introduced their works to the institute head, Ibrahim Ibn Al Hussein Al Alawi through slides as well as personal interpretation.

"Benanteur" — polyptychs

Ibn Antar, better known in France as "Benanteur", studied in the "Ecole des Beaux Arts" of Oran and now lives in Paris.

What strikes us most in his work is the superimposed horizontal patches of very intense colours that makeup, in a mosaic sort of way, geological formations of monumental cliffs, where side crevices and repeated folds of the stone enhance the verticality, and therefore the strength of the volumes.

His works are all polyptychs, i.e. formed with more than one panel.

ART REVIEW

"The Last Look" is a predominantly green triptych resuming the idea of a centralised composition encircled, this time, by a hazy area rather than patches. In the centre, tiny brushstrokes bend towards figuration; one seems to locate hordes of people within an unrealistic landscape. Some see them as battalions setting camp, the idea might be a result of the repeated rhythms that drum throughout the whole central area. Movement is added by "rays" of lemon yellow dry brushstrokes, or small sharp diagonals formed between two areas of colour.

"The Eighth Day" (of creation?), a triptych depicting a rocky landscape painted in the manneristic combination of pink and yellow, conveys a rather mystic environment. Blue circular patches, like comets, enter the right hand corner of the right panel, they are repeated in an upward curving movement, leave the canvas and re-enter their descent panel and resume their descent futuristically (through the repetition of forms) this time looking more textured and solid until one settles on the ground. In

the third panel, small versions of this form seem to diminish into the distance, with a strong outburst in the upper part (the sky?). The choreography of this serpentine movement is beautiful, a baller of forms against a mystic background.

Kacimi — strong temperament

Kacimi had exhibited his strong temperament when visiting Jordan to participate in the Islamic Art Education Conference. It is this temperament, this internal vehemence, that comes out in his paintings finding many passionate admirers among the Jordanian public.

His paintings are rendered predominantly in black, gray and white, highlighted at intervals with blue and ochre rarely filling a form or part of it.

Strong energy radiates in an upward thrust while squiggles and doodles appear intermittently as if to enhance the kinetic rhythm. These often adopt the character of a "liberated" calligraphy or of cosmic manifestations plummeting along with the diagonal thrust. Flippant brushstrokes are juxtaposed on the fluid outline of a female figure rendered in varied thicknesses.

Forms bulge or recede through his intensive use of chiaro-scuro, which is not always relevant to the volume of the bodies depicted, for they seem realistic at points but soon disappear into the fog of the background.

Kacimi's overall dry and thick texture is obtained by the artist's own preparation of mixed media: coloured pigment mixed with glue, powder and acrylics. The artist uses his fingers, brushes, he dips a string in paint and flagellates the surface of the canvas with it, he uses cardboard etc. as an extension to his hands; we



"The Last Look" by Abdullah Ibn Antar of Algeria

see a full interaction between the artist and his work.

He defies all that is static and fixed. His abstractions join his figurations in a thrust that goes beyond the limitations of a frame. His larger canvases hang loosely without being stretched on a structural frame, allowing atonement emancipation, giving the convulsed bodies total freedom. Small square canvases framed with black might well have been sedate as the form implies, yet because of his interior vehemence, neither shape nor colour seems to limit the violent thrust, nor the suave sensuality of the figurations. Colour is used in a symbolic way as in "Entry" where a suggestive red brushstroke is thrust up from the shape of a leg.

Kamel — back ground

Kamel studied at the Ecole de

Paris, and he is, presently, professor of art at the School of Fine Arts in Tunis. He started painting figuratively for some time and then assumed the metamorphosis of forms, transforming them, making them lose their identity, float within or without a given space, creating tension among themselves. The background plays an important role in his works. Layers of paint are superimposed allowing striations and

lacerations to show through. Large transparent brushstrokes done in a haphazard "come-and-go" movement allow you to see the lower layer of paint, while other areas are opaquely covered and yet others are totally detached. This is a result of Kamel's

past experimentations with collage, gluing and tearing out stuck areas leaving torn remnants,

hence his lacerated edges. Black and white play an important part in giving some closed shapes a sort of three-dimensionality very much like Arshile Gorky's. Lines done in pencil fly in and out among his shapes, rarely assuming a geometric shape. He draws these with his left hand to assure a liberated gesture, a controlled hazard. Using line, patches and gesture he works on the surface until he reaches an equilibrium accepted by himself as the only aesthetic requirement with no prior study or composition. This method of work reminds us of many modern masters who build as they go, among them Estève.

There is always a pull, tension, a kind of unstudied spontaneity that is the reason why he paints. The exhibition of these three Arab masters will go on until June 16.

Jordan Times

Editorial Director:
RAKAN AL MAJALI
Director General:
DR. RADI AL WAQFI
Editor-in-Chief:
DR. WALEED M. SADI

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile: 661242

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Blood in Tiananmen Square

IT TOOK only a few hours earlier this week for the Chinese leadership to demolish decades of painstaking image building for the most populous country of the world. Whoever was behind the order to the army to smash into democracy protesters and wrest control of Peking's central square from them at any cost did irreparable damage to China, simply because those who fell in the onslaught and those who fired the shots and drove the vehicles of death shared one thing — a common Chinese identity.

It is not strange that the carnage in the street of Peking has led to splits within the ranks of the toughly-disciplined Chinese army. The report of a Chinese woman raising clenched fists and chanting democracy slogans while her husband, a soldier, watched from the other side of the barricade, tells the whole story.

Many liberation movements in the Third World have looked up to China for moral support, which Peking was always ready to extend. One is reminded of a strong conviction among intellectual circles that China is one of the few countries which have remained steadfast among the international community in extending unreserved, selfless support for every struggle for freedom and dignity. The picture was indeed tarnished this week.

Coming at a time when China was slowly shedding its image of totalitarian communist superpower and edging to consolidate its leading voice on the global stage, the brutal violence in Peking has shocked international consciences as reflected in the horrified reaction it drew from every part of the globe, whether in the form of sanctions, boycotts or mere condemnations.

Notwithstanding the argument that whatever happened, and is happening, at Tiananmen Square and other parts of the Chinese capital as well as in the provinces is strictly an internal Chinese affair, there can be no justification for the brutal assault on unarmed student-led protesters who were demanding their fundamental right to have a say in determining their future. Some of those who wield power in China appear not have taken note of the winds of change sweeping around the world, whether in the Soviet Union and Poland or the Philippines and Panama. If anything, they appeared to have been deaf to the cries for moderation and dialogue from their own colleagues.

It may be premature yet to judge whether 'hardline' or 'moderation' will gain the upper hand in the Chinese stand-off — with reports of an army mutiny and continued military assaults on people, who, in turn, are as defiant as ever if not more. However, one thing is clear: the country has taken a dramatic turn. The course of events in the next few days should determine the immediate future of the 1.1 billion Chinese — whether their leaders would opt for an isolated China in its own world by seeing through their suppression of the popular revolt or to accept the inevitability of change demanded by the younger generation. The decision is theirs and theirs alone, but the Chinese nation, and the international community at large will never forget the bloodstains in Tiananmen Square.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's message to the country on the anniversary of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war was the subject of the Al Ra'i Arabic daily editorial on Tuesday. In his message the King urges all Jordanians to constructively fight despair and dissent by working towards development and production. The editorial supported the King's call for a concerted effort to fight defeatism, which recently plagued the country, as it undermines progress and development. In his message the King reminded all citizens that they must ask what they could do for their country when they ask what the country can do for them.

The brutal crushing of the student revolt in China was described by Al Ra'i columnist Abdul Rahim Omar as a catastrophe. He wrote that it was both strange and shocking that both the leaders and the armed forces of China should take such drastic actions against their own people. While admiring China's many achievements in science, technology and culture, the columnist questioned the wisdom of the actions taken against the student protesters, particularly in light of the model role that China, as an Asian nation, plays in the developing world.

Al Dustour daily commented Tuesday on the message His Majesty King Hussein delivered to the country on the occasion of the 22nd anniversary of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The paper said that under the leadership of King Hussein, Jordan had done its utmost to support the Palestinian people in their quest to regain their homeland. The paper also noted that Jordan had kept the spirit of the Great Arab Revolt in its defence of the rights of the Palestinian people in Palestine, in its support of Iraq in the face of Iranian aggression as well as its continuous efforts to strengthen Arab unity. The paper stressed that Jordan had recently achieved a great success in its pan-Arab efforts through its active participation and membership in the newly formed Arab Cooperation Council.

Peking carnage — a major blow to Hong Kong, calm urged

By Chris Peterson
Reuter

HONG KONG — The carnage in Peking and continuing violence on its streets have dealt a major blow to the future stability of Hong Kong, due to revert to Chinese rule in 1997, analysts and diplomats said Monday.

The British colony's stock market suffered its most dramatic slump since the global crash of 1987 and people queued to withdraw money from banks with links to China.

In a rare display of public unity, legislators and members of governor Sir David Wilson's advisory executive council issued a statement of outrage at events in China and called for calm in Hong Kong.

"We in Hong Kong, no matter how angry we are, must put all our energies into preserving the separateness of our system... our future depends on the maintenance of our existing system and our continued stability," said the statement.

At the start of the day's trading on the Hong Kong stock exchange, secretary for monetary

affairs David Nendick said: "If you are in stocks and shares, stay there, you are certainly not going to get a reasonable value for your shares just now."

But his words fell on deaf ears as panicky investors sent the stock market's Hang Seng index of blue chip companies on a dizzying slide that saw it lose 581.77 points, or 21.74 per cent, at the day's end.

"I'm afraid what's happening in Peking can only be seen as a major blow to Hong Kong hopes for stability. With that kind of behaviour you can hardly hope for the Chinese people here to have confidence for future prosperity under Peking's rule after 1997. I know I'd be worried," said a Western diplomat.

Governor Wilson invited Xu Jiatun, director of the Hong Kong branch of the New China News Agency and Peking's highest representative in the colony, to his official residence on Monday.

A government spokesman said Wilson passed on the deep concern of Hong Kong Chinese over the events in Peking.

The governor also asked for

the co-operation of the Chinese authorities in ensuring the safety of Hong Kong residents now in Peking.

The spokesman said the Hong Kong government had arranged a special flight to Peking to collect students, journalists and other Hong Kong residents who wish to return home.

Bob Broadfoot, of the private political and economic risk consultancy, said: "What is happening in Peking has simply crystallised the concern already felt that Hong Kong will be in a very vulnerable position. The people I have spoken to are very pessimistic. I have had Hong Kong businessmen say to me quite bluntly in the past 24 hours 'Hong Kong has had it'."

He added: "There is now no commerce whatsoever into China. Joint ventures, investment, all that has ground to a halt. They've all turned their backs on China."

"Anger is only part of it — I think there is a deep revulsion at what is going on in China, and they want no part of it," he added.

The governor and his senior

advisers met during the day to discuss the China crisis, which has sparked a string of street demonstrations in Hong Kong in which angry residents have vented their grief outside the offices of the New China news agency, Peking's de facto consulate.

The only topic of conversation among most of Hong Kong's six million Chinese has been the violent suppression by China's army of the seven-week pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square.

Many reacted with tears and frustration as television and radio stations and the colony's 42 Chinese language newspapers churched out the news from Peking.

"I am ashamed. I am Chinese, what are these people in Peking doing?" asked a middle-aged civil servant waiting in line for a taxi.

"My heart is crying for the Chinese people. But what can we do? Hong Kong is being handed back. You think I am happy?" said a 23-year-old Chinese secretary called Linda as she queued to get off the jet foil that runs between Hong Kong and the



Rebel with a cause

nearby Portuguese-run territory of Macau.

Taxi driver Wu Fang was more pragmatic: "Now you can see why we don't trust the communists. That's why I came here in 1957 and that's why I'm getting out before 1997. I'm not a businessman, I have family."

Trade unions are going ahead with plans for a general strike Wednesday, Hong Kong's first since the 1920s.

Although commercial life in the colony ground to a near standstill during street rioting provoked by China's cultural revolution in 1967, there was no concerted general strike call.

Khomeini death unlikely to better U.S.-Iran ties soon

By Steve Holland
Reuter

WASHINGTON — The death of Ayatollah Khomeini raised hopes on Sunday for an eventual improvement in U.S.-Iran ties, but U.S. officials and analysts foresaw no change soon in relations that have been hostile for 10 years.

U.S. officials were clearly hopeful that the passing of the man who called the United States "the great satan" would mark the end of a turbulent era for a country that at one time was a strong U.S. ally in a strategic region.

President George Bush, who signalled his desire for better relations with Iran in his inaugural speech, only to be rebuffed, said he hoped "Iran will now move toward assuming a responsible role in the international community."

Other officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, predicted a power struggle in Iran's new leadership and said they believed it would be some time before relations could be improved.

"We've got such deep problems between the U.S. and Iran and they're not going to go away overnight," said a U.S. State Department official. "Just because Khomeini is gone doesn't mean it's all washed under the bridge."

Many Americans considered the turbaned, bearded Islamic leader a symbol of supreme hatred who used terrorism and hostage-taking as a foreign policy tool to reject Western beliefs and values.

They held him responsible for the holding of 52 American hostages in Tehran for 444 days in 1979-81 as well as various acts of

violence and threats against Americans and U.S. interests in the name of his firebrand style of Islamic fundamentalism.

Gary Sick, an Iran expert who served on the National Security Council, said Khomeini's death could actually lead to a short-term upsurge in attacks on Western interests carried out by small factions who will not feel they have to answer to Iran's new rulers.

"I would expect more free-lance 'terrorism.' I think there may be more sporadic incidents, perhaps hijackings, perhaps bombings, but I don't see that as a threat basically to the political stability of the region."

"I don't see Iran in a major way setting out to export its revolution through terror. They simply don't have the resources to do that," Sick told U.S. television.

It has always been the prospect



The late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini

of "moderates" emerging in the Iran hierarchy that has kept U.S. hopes alive of an eventual improvement in relations with Iran. Reagan administration officials

thought they were dealing with the moderates in 1985 when they sold U.S. arms to Iran in hopes of gaining the release of U.S. hostages in Lebanon.

That plan backfired and one such "moderate," Iranian Parliament Speaker Hojjatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani, recently called on Palestinians to kill Westerners for every Palestinian killed in the uprising in Israeli-occupied lands, a remark he later said had been misreported.

U.S. officials are now loathe to refer to any one in Iran as a moderate, including President Ali Khamenei, named on Sunday to succeed Khomeini as Iran's spiritual leader.

"It's erroneous to try to pin labels on people as moderates or liberals," said one official. "He (Khamenei) was one of the inner circle around Khomeini. He's got to be as extreme as Khomeini."

ry Kissinger said he has seen no sign of any moderates but believes Iran is unlikely to have another leader on the scale of a Khomeini.

"I find it hard to believe that a carbon copy of the Ayatollah could emerge," he told U.S. television.

"But at this point it looks as if the fundamentalists are not going to be easy to dislodge, and it is not easy to determine the forces that would dislodge them."

All this would not seem to bode well for the nine Americans still held hostage by pro-Iranian fundamentalists in Lebanon. "I don't expect any major changes in the immediate future," said George Nader, editor of Middle East Insight Magazine. "I feel there are more urgent and serious matters that Iranians will have to adjust to and live with and deal with before the issue of hostages."

Tight budget slows projects of agency involved in Star Wars

By Barton Reppert
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A government agency guiding space-based missile defence research faces a second year of reduced funding, forcing a slowdown in research projects ranging from optical computers to high-power microwave weapons.

The Defence Department agency, the office of Innovative Science and Technology (IST), served as a lightning rod for criticism of "Star Wars" strategic defence initiative shortly after it was launched several years ago.

Its activities continue to draw both criticism and qualified support among the civilian scientific community.

Funding for the small agency peaked at \$106 million in fiscal 1988 but was cut to \$76 million this fiscal year. Tentative plans call for a slight increase, to \$80 million, in the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.

If that plan holds, ist director Dwight Dutton said, "we'll probably have to make some severe decisions. It's going to certainly dampen the programme."

Dutton said he was told his agency's spending was being virtually frozen because of competing priorities and overall fiscal constraints.

For the entire SDI programme, President George Bush's administration has requested \$4.6 billion in fiscal 1990, up from \$4.1 billion this fiscal year but considerably below the \$5.9 billion recommended by former President Ronald Reagan before he left office.

Critics of IST contend it has taken a highly idiosyncratic approach to funding research projects, without adequate scientific peer review.

They also complain the agency has sought to polish SDI's image by getting university researchers involved with the programme and that it has oversold the potential for civilian spinoffs from SDI research.

Rosy Nimroody, a national

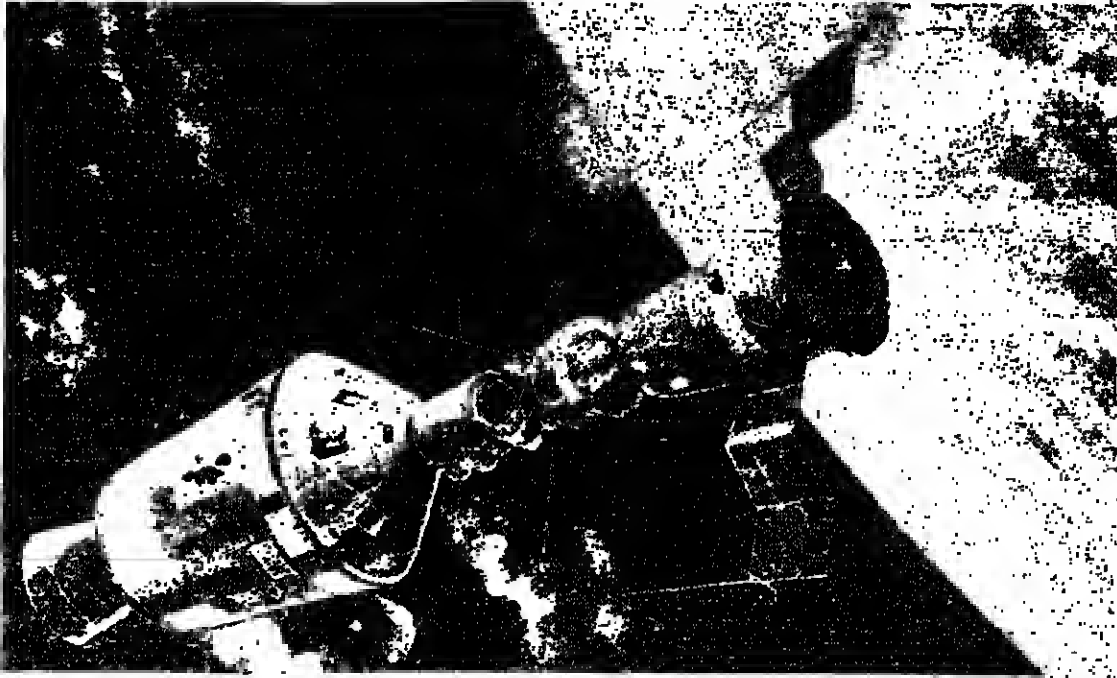
security analyst with the Council on Economic Priorities, a New York-based organisation that has issued several reports critical of Star Wars, said the IST programme "was definitely oversold."

"I think there still remains an effort to get as many people as possible, so they can go around and say we have X number of universities involved in SDI," she said.

IST supporters, however, argue the programme has been successful in promoting innova-

tive projects which compare well with the scientific output of other Pentagon-sponsored laboratories.

"My own assessment is that within SDI, I think that a programme like (IST) is very important and is in many ways the highest-quality and most promising part of the entire programme," said Ashton Carter, acting director of the Centre for Science and International Affairs at Harvard.



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'Celtic triangle' entraps many a trawler

By Ralph Boulton
Reporter

LONDON — On a calm late-spring day, Captain Jeff Cumber spread his nets on the Irish sea. Moments later, his trawler was snatched from below and dragged backwards through the murky waters at breakneck speed.

Cumber was the latest victim of what worried fishermen have dubbed the "Celtic triangle." Many other skippers have shared his fate in the last 10 years while up to 20 vessels have sunk without trace, often in calm seas and with no Mayday signal.

"There's a monstrous problem out there... ships have always disappeared in mysterious circumstances, but it's got much worse," Northern Ireland Fishermen's Association Chairman Dick James told reporters.

James and Cumber, backed by politicians, fear and all too earthly explanation for the goings-on in that corridor between the northern English and Irish coasts — submarines.

Prawn and lobster share the deep, rich grounds with these more menacing creatures, sweeping south from Scotland's Faslane naval base. The giant "tin fish," they say, can too easily snag the nets of unwitting fishermen.

"Submarines use that deepwater trench from Faslane like a motorway. We can't prove anyone has been killed by a sub, but if they haven't it's certainly going to happen one day," James said.

The problem has increased since, in the 1970s, the British navy began sending more submarines south along the "motorway" rather than dispatching them to northern seas.

Unexpected underwater rocks or freak storms are always a danger in a dangerous profession, James said. But worried fishermen believe the reasons for these losses must run deeper.

U.K., U.S. coverup?

British and U.S. navy officials deny any serious problem and insist they take all precautions to avoid trawlers. Bernard Moffatt, secretary of the Celtic League, which campaigns against military exercises, disagrees. He says more than 100 seamen may have been killed in incidents with submarines and accuses the United States and Britain of a cover-up.

"These incidents keep occurring near submarine exercise areas. The last one, a Belgian trawler, sank shortly after sending a message saying 'weather beautiful, seas calm.' What's going on out there?" Moffatt asked.

Besides 20 disappearances, he logs 32 "close encounters," in which ships' nets have been snagged and trawlers rammed.

Captain Cumber, speaking by radio from his trawler "Laurel," recalled the day he netted a U.S. submarine, instead of the giant prawns he was expecting.

"At first you wonder what ever can be happening. You grow up fighting storms and winds, but when you're being dragged along like that, you're helpless," he said.

Cumber, head of the Isle of Man fishermen's association, saved his trawler after 20 minutes by cutting the nets. But he captured the "one that got away" on camera when it surfaced.

The U.S. navy agreed to pay compensation to the crew and owners for the incident, as they have in three other cases. Britain has admitted 12 and France seven cases of net snagging.

But the navy denies Celtic League charges that the Belgian trawler Uilem Spiegel, which sank on a calm sunny day in March, may have been dragged to its doom by a submarine. "It's just too shallow for a sub there," one naval expert said.

Cumber said that after his narrow scrape he was taking the danger of submarines as seriously as the Irish. But he feels the problems of the last 10 years may have more than one cause.

With taxes on the size of vessels, he said, some trawlers are too small to take the equipment loaded onto them. "Some are just overloaded, and I think this could explain a few of the mysteries," Faslane has installed a telephone "hotline" for fishermen who think they have netted one of her majesty's submarines. But, James said, most complaints are answered with an "almost automatic reply that there's nothing in the area."



Lisbeth Palme

A new art dimension

By Helene Bourdon

NEW YORK — For Darcy Gergary, computer art still means paint and canvas, but for the past 10 years she has pioneered the use of computers by artists.

The large, abstract paintings decorating her modern living room show little sign of having being born on a computer screen, unless maybe one focuses on the great intricacy of the shapes.

"I am much more interested in art than computers," she points out from the start. "The computer is just another tool; it's my sketch pad... (At first) I was curious to see what technology was available for my generation of artists; I knew about electronic music, and I knew that something had to be available for artists."

"About 1979," she recalls, "at the time when the first computer paint system was developed, the system I used at a research lab cost \$5 million."

The equipment she has in her New York studio, including several computers and a video recorder, cost about \$60,000, she says, but along the years she has been able to use systems put

at her disposal by companies, and she even had software programmes written for her. At the same time she was developing a computer art course at the New York School of Visual Arts.

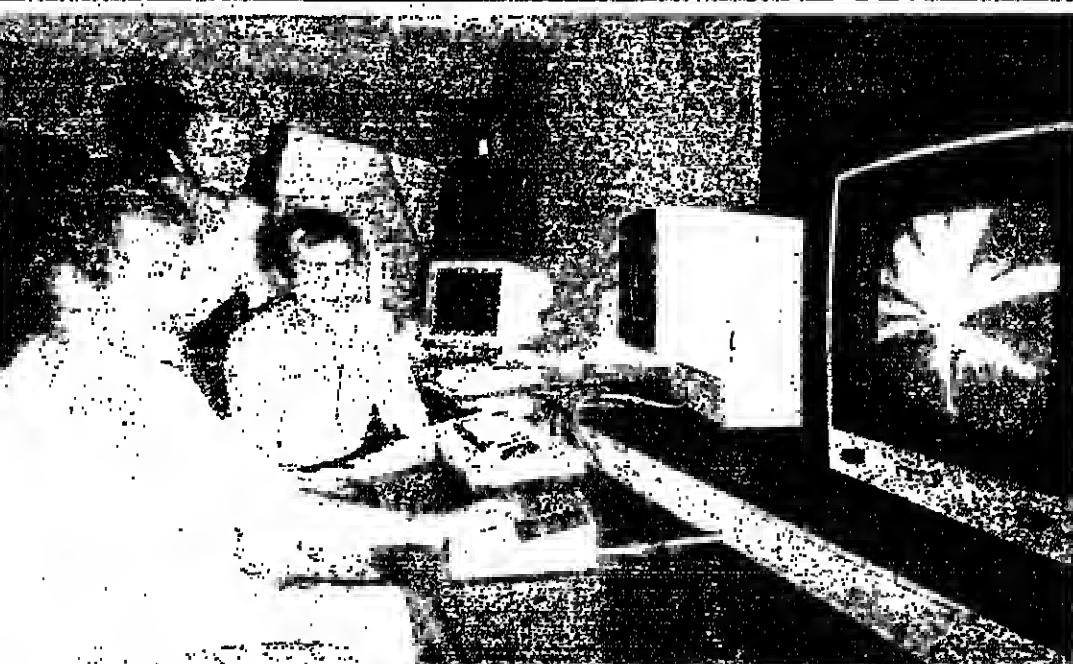
Her technique consists in "painting" the picture in full colour on her computer system, which has a film recorder hooked up to it. It enables her to put the image on a slide, and she then projects the slide to determine the size she wants for the painting. "A smaller scale does not give you the feeling I like to have in my environment," she says.

Unhappy with the limitations of plotters and other mechanical modes of transferring to paper or canvas the computer image she creates, she resorts to manual handling: Once she has decided on the size of the canvas, she projects the slide onto it and traces it. Then, after mixing the colours she enlists the help of two assistants to airbrush the design. "Every colour area has to be masked," she explains. "With all these thin lines and jagged edges it takes me a month to do one painting" of about 60-inch by 60-inch.

Using a computer "allows me to work in a non-physical medium of coloured light, without being constrained by drawing time," she says. "If I want to erase or change a colour, I can; I can change the scale, create different parts and put them together later; all the constraints you have in a traditional medium — gravity, toxicity — you don't have in a computer medium. You can explore many more ideas... For the creative process this is the most exciting (system)," but she adds, computers don't create art, artists do.

"In the end the only thing that matters is the quality of the art," she explains. "My feeling is that the more the computer can do for you, the better; I would be surprised if during our lifetime they (scientists) were able to develop computers with the variety of intelligence and skills that people have, but if they can that's great, because it means that we can use that (ability) and go further."

"Young people have jumped for this technology so quickly!" she exclaims. "It has stimulated the brightest, which says a lot about its future."



Starry starry nights

CHICAGO — No wonder that on clear nights the sky seems to sparkle, especially in the tropics. According to a group of United States scientists, apart from stars, the heavens are studded with diamonds — billions of them.

The gems are floating around in the debris of interstellar space, says a team of University of Chicago researchers. This claim is based on the analyses of samples from two meteorites which fell to Earth in the late 1960s — one in Australia and the other in Mexico.

When fragments of the meteorites were soaked in hydrochloric acid, their rock components dissolved but not the few milligrammes of diamonds that they also contained.

The scientists are convinced that the meteorite material did not come from our own solar system but from somewhere among more distant stars.

However, even the results of the Chicago investigation are unlikely to allay fears among those concerned about the prospect of the Earth being struck by a sizeable meteorite. One such asteroid recently passed within 800,000 kilometres of us on its latest orbit — a close encounter in astronomical terms.

Codenamed 1989-FC by astronomers, it is about 800 metres in diameter — and hurtles through space at a speed of 74,000 kilometres per hour. Inevitably, scientists add somewhat disconcertingly, sooner or later it will collide either with our planet, the Moon or Mars.

More reassuringly, they say that these phenomena occur only once in every 40 million years or so. Nevertheless, it would be prudent not to discount such an eventuality.

Were 1989-FC to collide with the Earth, the chances are that it would land in the sea as the oceans comprise just over 70 per cent of our planet's surface. The force of the im-

pact would create waves several hundred metres high these could cause flooding on a catastrophic scale.

But should it hit a landmass, the effect would be similar to that of an enormous nuclear explosion. The crater would be up to 16 kilometres wide and at least 1.6 kilometres deep.

Meanwhile, there is further disquieting news for those of a more nervous disposition. Radiation from a mysterious source in the centre of our galaxy, the Milky Way, has recently reappeared.

These distinctive gamma rays were first detected in the 1970s, but disappeared in the early years of this decade.

Campaigning against apartheid

A year after his death, Lisbeth Palme continues in the footsteps of her murdered husband, Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme

By Victoria Brittain

ANXIOUS officials pinning up a row of children's drawings from Mozambique showing people lying dead in heaps, women being cut open, small children running off the page, are the hallmarks of any international conference where Mrs. Lisbeth Palme is to speak. Behind the ultra-retiring manner of the very unofficial former First Lady of Sweden there is a Mrs. Palme officials still jump to please.

The effects of apartheid, particularly on children, are the main theme of all Lisbeth Palme's work and the driving force behind it is, as she puts it herself, the desire to continue her late husband, Olof Palme's work. "It is degrading for all humanity that there is a place in the world where racism is imposed by law and it is a double disaster that we have not only apartheid but also the wars and destabilisation it has brought, as in Mozambique," she says, in words that could have been his.

After his death the former Swedish Prime Minister was awarded the Albert Einstein Peace Prize in the U.S. and the Jawaharlal Nehru Peace Prize in India for his contributions to many international issues. His

widow and her family chose to highlight one. They gave all the money to South African child victims of apartheid.

Twenty years ago the Palmes met Oliver Tambo, President of the African National Congress. "From then we always thought of him as the real leader of South Africa," she says. And, on the platform of the Harare conference in 1987 which first highlighted the torture of children by the South African security forces, Tambo puts his arms around her and introduced her as "our dear sister, Lisbeth Palme."

Already in the early 1960s the young Swedish couple had come to know Julius Nyerere who, from before Tanzania's independence, was the African voice that Olof Palme believed in, she says, despite the influential voices of the British colonial experts who saw the future very differently. "My husband always weighed things very carefully and he knew what it meant to support Nyerere."

Shy and so intensely that she won't even say how many children she has, Mrs. Palme seems to have to force herself into the public arena. Her reluctance to meet journalists is legendary. However, her own training as a child psychologist fits neatly with

her responsibilities as the head of the important Swedish Committee for UNICEF which raises 10 per cent of the U.N. body's funds. That background also naturally involves her in the important Scandinavian programmes for the rehabilitation of the Mozambican child victims of MNR kidnappings.

For her, solidarity with Africa, which was Olof Palme's hallmark from the early days of his political career, is "part of a general political attitude, part of a person's social responsibility." She finds it hard to admit that in Sweden today as in the rest of Scandinavia the tide has turned somewhat against such solidarity and a younger generation is less interested, less idealistic and deeply affected by some of the failures and disappointments of the post-colonial period.

For Lisbeth Palme, the Social Democrat ideals of her husband's party are still very much hers and one can sense they will never change. She starts many of her speeches with the story of a boy who grew up on a rubbish dump, was the only survivor in his poverty-stricken family and yet grew up to be Sweden's Minister of Finance for 21 years.

From a class society to a welfare state

"This was when our country changed from a class society to a welfare state; it was all such a short time ago and what it means is that it is possible to change poor countries. In Sweden we used to have 80 per cent of the

country producing food and there was not enough, now we have 4 per cent producing food and we have too much."

Much of Mrs. Palme's time is spent giving speeches throughout Sweden. Doggedly she will tramp the furthest district and speak to audiences however small.

She is a member of the Swedish Peace Forum which works with both the labour movement and the Social Democrat Party on peace issues and particularly on anti-nuclear campaigns.

We had six years of bourgeois government from 1976 to 1982 which brought us to economic crisis, we have to fight back against a whole trend of thinking. Privatisation is always threatening to encroach, there are always bourgeois communities trying private solutions for such things as child care — these people undermine the communal solutions to problems."

But it is Southern Africa that she returns to again even in her discussions of European politics. "I've been inspired by some of the refugee women from Namibia I have met — from seeing 25 per cent of children die before the age of five they have managed to cut the infant mortality rate down to 70 in 1,000; women have been educated from scratch in the SWAPO camps. These things prove to me how change can come in a short time, much shorter than the whole lifetime it has taken for us in Sweden" — Arab Times.

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OPEC falls in quota trap

VIENNA (Agencies) — A stalemate persisted Tuesday at OPEC talks in Vienna over a Kuwaiti demand for a bigger share of the oil market, but delegates said fear of a new price war may yet stampede the group into a deal.

Ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) are trying to set new output quotas.

If they can't agree, there could be a free-for-all and a glut like one last autumn that saw prices near \$10 a barrel, compared with an \$18 to \$20 range now which has been achieved largely through better OPEC supply discipline.

"There will be a solution. Tomorrow, the day after tomorrow at the latest," said Iraqi Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi.

But Kuwait's Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah told reporters there was no change in his position.

Conference sources say he wants a Kuwaiti quota of 1.35 million barrels daily. That is a third more than at present and much more than he could get within a proposed limit of 20 million for total OPEC volume unless others among the 13 members conceded percentage market share.

The sources said OPEC heavyweight Saudi Arabia, backed by Iran, refuses to do that. It wants quota rises made on a strict pro rata basis and also sees a risk to prices if the overall ceiling is set above 20 million barrels to help Kuwait.

Another wealthy Gulf state, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), also wants a bigger-than-percentage quota rise and, like Kuwait, is exceeding its present mandatory output limit.

Over the weekend a compromise package giving these two a bit extra was painstakingly cobbled together by OPEC's "wise men" — mediators Kilwinn Lukman of Nigeria who is the OPEC president, Secretary-General Subroto of Indonesia and ministers Gnanjari Kartasasmita of Indonesia and Celestino Armas of Venezuela.

They are now turning the heat on the Gulf producers by just withdrawing from the hotel suite

haggling for now.

Said one neutral delegate: "If OPEC were a Viennese opera you would say the conductor and the principal musicians had walked away leaving the prima donnas to glare at each other. It's a rather tense intermission."

Armas pointedly talked of sightseeing. Kartasasmita flew off for a day to Geneva to meet Indonesian President Suharto there.

But a Gulf delegate said privately that although the situation looked rather grim he would be surprised if a deal did not emerge since no one wanted prices to crash again.

The oil market tempered slightly, but not much, its earlier optimism on an OPEC agreement. North Sea Brent blend crude oil, the international marker, eased five cents per barrel to \$18 for July loading.

But traders say any OPEC accord must at least curb the quota violations of Kuwait and the UAE to hold prices up.

Kuwait may be the least unhappy about weaker crude oil prices since it operates a huge world refining network and has its eye chiefly on "downstream" pump prices.

Saudi Arabia, a traditional pricing "dove," now publicly advocates higher prices. Analysts say it probably needs cash and may also hope that, if each barrel earns more revenue, OPEC tensions over the volumes that each member can pump will abate.

Quota-setting routinely causes OPEC rows.

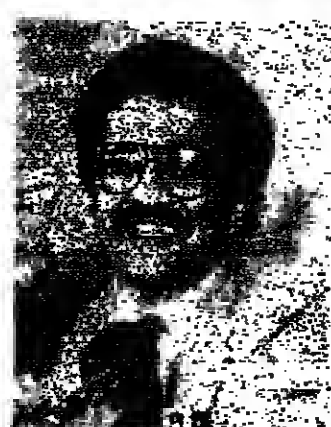
The basic problem is that present quotas were arrived at haphazardly when, in the early 1980s, high prices killed demand for OPEC oil and its output slid from 30 to below 20 million barrels daily. Members just cut back what they were pumping then, hoping it was only a passing nightmare.

Former Saudi minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani tried in 1986 to get OPEC to agree a formal basis for quota allocation, with weightings for population, oil reserves and historic output.

But whatever way it was done, someone would have had to concede a loss of share. After three weeks, OPEC gave up.

Even now, UAE Minister Mana Said Al Oteiba says his quota is "allocated" not "official" and therefore not binding.

Last November, however, OPEC mediators led by Lukman



Ali Khalifa Al Sabah

did broker a solution to an even thornier problem than that being tackled now — Iraq's refusal to obey any quota unless it got one as big as that of former Gulf war foe Iran.

IEA reports higher output, predicts rising demand

Meanwhile, according to estimates released Tuesday, OPEC nations lifted their oil production to 21 million barrels a day in May, the highest amount so far this year.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) also predicted in its monthly oil market report that demand for the group's oil would rise in the second half of the year to about 20.85 million barrels a



Mana Said Al Oteiba

day. The agency had previously estimated demand at 20.4 million barrels a day.

The energy agency's report said OPEC production in May rose above 500,000 barrels from April.

This was primarily the result of higher production in Kuwait and Nigeria, partly offset by a small decline in Iranian and Ecuadorian production," it said.

The slippage in Ecuador's output, it said, was due to a landslide that damaged the country's main oil pipeline.

The report confirmed analysts' estimates of higher production by the OPEC nations in advance of the summer meeting.

Kuwait to shift housing construction to private sector

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait announced Tuesday it was preparing to spin off some of its state-run housing industry to the private sector, in what officials say is a general trend toward a freer economy.

"In its desire to present superior housing services... and reduce waste from modifications after the owners receive their houses... the cabinet has decided to begin the required steps for implementation," a statement issued after the weekly cabinet meeting said.

The statement, carried by the Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA), said the move was also aimed at reducing the waiting period for new homes.

Officials say other steps are planned, including the sale of banks, businesses and other state-owned assets.

According to economists, the government currently gives married Kuwaiti couples a 54,000

dinar (\$185,000) long-term loan to purchase housing.

The couple can use the loan either to buy a new home built by the Housing Authority or combine it with their own money to go to a private contractor.

A government-built home, while substantially cheaper, can mean a wait of eight years before moving in.

Mohammad Al Sabah, a member of the government's Higher Planning Council, said that under the new system individuals would be allowed to choose from a number of standardised houses built by private contractors.

They would be free to add extra features, but would have to pay for these themselves, said Sabab. The new programme would initially be on an experimental basis.

He estimated the value of government housing construction at around 400 million dinars (\$1.4 billion) a year.

Bankers doubt debt reduction plan

MADRID (R) — U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady Monday urged commercial banks to back his plan for reducing the debts of Third World countries.

"Now is the time for commercial banks and the debtor countries to seize the opportunity," he said.

Brady was speaking at the opening session of the International Monetary Conference, a three-day gathering in Madrid of top officers from nearly 100 international banks organised by the American Bankers' Association.

But his remarks left many commercial bankers, especially from Europe, sceptical and some clearly hostile to the idea.

Brady said the new strategy would serve their interests.

"It allows for diversity — debt reduction, debt-service reduction, or new money. Banks that participate in debt reduction will

hold new claims that are significantly enhanced," he said.

But one European banker called the speech a "catastrophe".

He said he had come to be convinced by Brady but had left the session thoroughly opposed.

"I can tell you for a fact that some of us called our negotiators over Mexico and gave them new instructions not to give in," the banker said. "Before I was reluctant (about debt reduction). Now I am hostile."

Mexico, the Third World's second largest debtor after Brazil, is currently negotiating with banks a package of measures including a cut in the level of outstanding loans.

Those talks had been seen as the first test of the Brady plan, launched three months ago as one of the first initiatives of the new Bush administration.

It envisaged economic reform

in debtor nations under surveillance held by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), new loans and swapping debt for equity in industrial projects as well as formally cutting the Third World's \$1.3 trillion debt.

But it was the debt reduction part which became the focus of attention and the central part of Brady's remarks Monday.

Another senior banking official said he failed to see why the banks, not official institutions, should foot the bill.

The Brady plan was more concerned with U.S. national security considerations — the likelihood of social unrest in Latin America — than financial policy, he added.

But the plan foresaw little more than guarantees for some bond issues and no significantly greater role for the IMF and the

World Bank, he said.

Brady told the meeting: "It is a simple truth that the cure for too much debt is not the addition of more debt... it is to your business judgment that I appeal today in asking that you move ahead."

Brady faced several sceptical questions from his audience.

Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman of Lloyds Bank PLC of Britain, asked why commercial banks should bear the debt reduction burden while loans by official institutions would not be written off.

Brady said the question would be better directed to the IMF and World Bank but added: "It was thought that their credits should remain unimpaired as a matter of policy."

Another questioner suggested that debt relief would encourage other countries, such as Turkey



Nicholas Brady

or Indonesia, not to keep up payments in the hope of getting a reduction later.

Spain to join EMS around middle of '90

MADRID (R) — Spain set a target date for full integration into the European Monetary System (EMS) Tuesday, saying it would join the exchange rate mechanism before July 1, 1990.

The exchange rate mechanism of semi-fixed exchange rates holds its eight member currencies in tight fluctuation bands of 2.25 per cent, except for the Italian lira which is allowed to diverge by six per cent.

Finance Minister Carlos Solchaga told Reuters that Spain would seek to integrate the peseta within a six per cent fluctuation band — like the Italian lira.

Spain, which joined the European Community in 1986, plans to take its first step in joining the EMS in September by including the peseta in the currency "basket" that makes up the European Currency Unit (ECU).

Up to now Spain has said it would like full integration as soon as possible but the process could take time because of the need to bring down domestic inflation, currently running at a year on year rate of around 6.7 per cent.

Solchaga said the July 1 deadline next year was planned to coincide with implementation of the first phase of the Delors committee report on economic and monetary union in the European Community (EC).

That report has been approved in principle by EC finance ministers who are recommending early implementation of work towards phase one, which urges full EMS membership by the four states not already in the exchange rate mechanism — Spain, Greece, Portugal and Britain.

Solchaga said the decision to join the EMS would cause some hardship in Spain. But Solchaga has been one of the strongest advocates of monetary union.

So far Britain has shown the most reluctance to taking sterling fully into the EMS, saying it will integrate into the exchange rate mechanism "when the time is right."

The Delors report envisages a phased move towards economic and monetary union for the 12-member EC although it sets no timetable for a process which would culminate in a single currency.

Takahide Furuhashi, analyst for D.B. Capital Markets (Asia), said, "there was some buying today, but there was no true strength in the market."

Singapore stock prices continued to slide in heavy selling.

U.S. banks cut interest to 11%

NEW YORK (R) — The leading U.S. banks Monday cut their benchmark prime interest rates half a point to 11 per cent, responding to signs of sluggishness in the economy, in a reversal of a year-long rise in bank rates. The rate cut was led by New York-based Citibank and quickly followed by Morgan Guaranty Trust Co., Chase Manhattan Bank, Bankers Trust Co., Manufacturers Hanover Corp. and Chicago-based Continental Bank. All lowered their rates to 11 per cent from 11.5 per cent. Citibank gave no reason for its move, but economists had expected banks to lower interest rates after two reports last week showing unexpectedly weak job growth in May and lower expectations on the economy among U.S. purchasing managers. The data added to evidence that the U.S. economy is cooling.

"It's too early to be definitive, but the fact that China's image has been damaged is obvious," one London-based bank economist said.

A London banker who has helped arrange financing for China summed up the opinion of others canvassed by Reuters when he said the situation in China was confused and no early conclusions about its credit worthiness should be made.

But he added: "It's difficult not to be emotive about this. You see pictures of kids being run over by personnel carriers and you think, 'am I helping to sustain this?'"

"Last Friday China was a safe credit. The fundamentals haven't really changed that much, despite the... events of the weekend," he noted.

He said China has recently adopted a much more open pro-

Unrest tarnishes China's image

LONDON (R) — The violent crushing of student protests in Peking has damaged China's image among West European bankers as a highly profitable lending prospect with a stable political system, bankers and economists say.

"It's too early to be definitive, but the fact that China's image has been damaged is obvious," one London-based bank economist said.

A London banker who has helped arrange financing for China summed up the opinion of others canvassed by Reuters when he said the situation in China was confused and no early conclusions about its credit worthiness should be made.

But he added: "It's difficult not to be emotive about this. You see pictures of kids being run over by personnel carriers and you think, 'am I helping to sustain this?'"

"Last Friday China was a safe credit. The fundamentals haven't really changed that much, despite the... events of the weekend," he noted.

He said China has recently adopted a much more open pro-

file in the financial arena with several Chinese state bodies borrowing money in both the Euro-bond and Asian money markets.

An economist at a British bank said he was convinced China would strive to meet all payments on foreign debt.

"If they miss out on one payment, they'll know that they won't get a penny more from the West — and they can't afford that," he said.

A banker at a continental European bank said: "It's too early to begin to consider what the repercussions of the weekend's events will be. But the Chinese have a sense of honour over debts they've incurred — they'll pay the British and the Americans before they internally."

Figures from the Bank for International Settlements — the Basle-based central bankers' bank — illustrate China's growing demand for Western funds. The country's debt to major Western banks rose to \$23.7 billion at the end of 1988 from \$16.76 billion a year earlier.

Paul Hohl, first vice president

at the Union Bank of Switzerland in Zurich, said his bank estimated China's total foreign debt at about \$32 billion at the end of 1988.

It was too early to judge how the upheaval in China would affect its foreign debt, Hohl said.

"Their payment discipline has been excellent up to now," Managers in West Germany's Eurobond market, which China has tapped for funds several times since starting with Eurobonds in 1985, said Peking was likely to have difficulty raising fresh capital because of public shock over recent events.

Eurobonds are instruments denominated in a European currency issued by states or firms outside the currency's home-nation.

One manager said the television and press images of deaths of demonstrators at the hands of Chinese troops were likely to linger in investors' memories, hindering any new bonds issues.

"People would probably object to them on normal grounds," he noted.

Other bond dealers said prices of Eurobonds issued by China and Chinese state bodies had eased but there was no widespread selling because of Peking's good repayments record.

Stock markets continue to slide in Asia

Asian stock markets continued to slide Tuesday after news of more unrest in China unnerved investors, but only Taipei suffered a repetition of the plunges that rocked the bourses Monday.

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ARABIC FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

The Language Centre at the University of Jordan announces that the Summer Course in Modern Standard Arabic for Speakers of Other Languages will commence on June 24, and will last for 8 weeks.

The programme is intensive and classes meet in the morning for 20 hours per week, Saturday-Wednesday. The fee for the Course is JD 140.

Those interested please call at the Language Centre for registration.

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Polish opposition leader Lech Walesa (right), with his wife, Danuta, and his son, Bogdan, leave a polling booth after casting their votes in Sunday's general elections.

Solidarity rejects coalition with party despite triumph

WARSAW (AP) — Solidarity said Tuesday that despite its overwhelming victory in parliament elections it was not interested in accepting the Communist Party's offer to join a governing coalition.

In a conciliatory move, however, the free trade union movement offered to stand by the agreement it made with authorities in April and allow the party the two-thirds majority in parliament's powerful lower house.

Up to 35 of those seats may be vacant because high party and government officials such as Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski appeared to have been defeated in Sunday's vote despite running unopposed.

Voters disgruntled by the Communists' more than 40 years of authoritarian rule and economic mismanagement did not give many of the high-ranking officials the majority needed to gain seats.

Solidarity won an overwhelming majority of seats to the new 100-member Senate and virtually all the 161 seats permitted in the

lower house (Sejm), according to unofficial returns.

A handful of seats may be decided in runoffs June 18.

On Monday, the party conceded defeat in what was Poland's most democratic balloting in more than four decades, but fears were raised that the outcome would precipitate a new political crisis.

The result gave an opposition group in Eastern Europe control of a freely chosen chamber of parliament for the first time since the post-war Communist takeover.

The Communists urged Solidarity to join a governing coalition, an arrangement unprecedented in the Soviet bloc.

"We cannot do reforms by ourselves... we need each other," deputy government spokesman Zbyslaw Rykowski said Tuesday.

He declined to be specific, saying such questions would have to wait until the new parliament is seated. But he said Rakowski would offer his resignation and that of his cabinet at that time.

At a news conference Tuesday, Solidarity spokesman Janusz Onyszkiewicz said the union considers itself bound by the April accord in which it agreed to give the government a majority in the 460-member Sejm — 299 seats. Authorities should thus be allowed to fill the vacant seats as they please, he said.

Onyszkiewicz ruled out a formal governing coalition: "All candidates for deputy and senator stated that they will enter the Sejm or Senate as the opposition. That was made very clear."

But he said that did not rule out future "joint actions and joint decisions" to solve specific problems.

Senior Solidarity adviser Bronislaw Geremek told reporters the union was ready to act jointly with the government to work for reform.

Onyszkiewicz praised Monday's statement by Communist Party spokesman Jan Bysztyga, who acknowledged the party's electoral defeat.

56 killed, 500 hurt in Uzbek violence

MOSCOW (Agencies) — More than 50 people were killed and at least 500 injured in what appeared to be the Soviet Union's worst ethnic bloodshed in decades as Uzbeks clashed last weekend with a Turkic minority in Central Asia, Soviet sources said Tuesday.

Soviet media said marauding Uzbeks brandishing sticks and iron bars hunted down Meskhetian Turks, an ethnic minority deported from Georgia to Uzbekistan by the late Soviet dictator Josef Stalin during World War II.

The clashes in the Fergana valley, southeast of the Uzbek capital, Tashkent, were likened by the Communist Party daily Pravda to a pogrom.

At least 7,000 Interior Ministry troops were reported to have been rushed to Fergana, amid reports of continuing shooting. An overnight curfew was in force.

Some 5,000 Meskhetians, fearing more violence, fled to a refugee camp outside Fergana to seek protection of troops, a journalist at the official Novosti press agency told Reuters from Tashkent.

"According to our figures, as

of Monday evening there were 56 people dead," said the journalist, who declined to be identified. He said 43 of the dead were Meskhetian Turks.

The rest included Uzbeks, Tajiks and Russians.

"Another 385 Turks and 136 Uzbeks were wounded. Seventeen Interior Ministry troops and five policemen are in hospital."

The journalist said 230 people had been detained by Monday night, of whom 130 were later set free, while 417 houses and 116 cars and buses had been burnt out in the weekend's violence.

A Moscow telephone operator said Tuesday she was unable to put calls through to Fergana because communications with the region had been disrupted by the unrest. Calls dialed directly from Moscow also did not go through.

Soviet Interior Minister Vadim

Bakatin, Uzbek party leader Rafik Nishanov and local members of the Soviet parliament, went to the scene to try to calm passions.

Tashkent Radio broadcast an appeal by Mufti Makhhammad-sadyk Mamayusopov, leader of the spiritual board of the Muslims of central Asia and Kazakhstan.

"The terrible incidents taking place in Fergana left deep sorrow and concern in the hearts of all of us. This is against the religion of Islam. This is against Islamic teaching," he said.

Like members of the dozens of other minorities deported by Stalin, many Meskhetians have been asking to go home.

Pravda's correspondent reported that there were unusually large crowds on the streets of Fergana when he arrived with a group of Soviet journalists early Monday morning.

"Many party officials had not slept all night. On the eve, a group of people armed with iron bars and other weapons had rushed into the building," he wrote.

Others, many apparently drunk, rampaged through the streets throwing stones and molotov cocktails.

"They broke down doors in search of Meskhetian Turks, who gathered several hours before in an adjacent square for protection. Thanks to quick action, they were evacuated to a safe place several minutes before the appearance of the outrageous mob," reported the Pravda journalist.

Another group of elderly Meskhetians, women and children came to party headquarters during Monday, fleeing their homes which had been set on fire by Uzbeks.

"They said some Uzbek neighbors risked their own lives to save them from those trying to cause a pogrom," he said.

The rioting began as the Soviet Union's latest ethnic violence, but it was fuelled by chronic unemployment and soon turned into "vicious clashes between thousands of furious people," according to the nightly TV news programme "Vremya."

'Heart-and-soul friendship'

NEW YORK (AP) — Madonna and Sandra Bernhard caused a commotion with a bump-and-grind rendition of the song "I Got You Babe" at a recent benefit.

But they said saving the world's rain forests is more important than questions about their seemingly flirtatious friendship.

"Don't believe those stories you heard about us," Madonna said in this week's People magazine.

"Believe them," responded Bernhard. "Madonna and I have a heart-and-soul friendship."

She added: "Beyond that, it's nobody's business. The way we act together is a political statement."

It's to say to the world, "Get past the judgments. Accept people for what they are." The rain forest is dying. What do you care more about, the rain forest or our sexuality?" The two appeared at a recent "Don't Bungle the Jungle" benefit at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

Paraplegic hangs from Washington bridge

NEW YORK (AP) — A paraplegic hung on a rope from the George Washington Bridge for more than two hours Monday, producing a rush hour traffic jam before police pulled him up and arrested him.

Police said the man, who also lowered himself from the Brooklyn bridge last August, was charged with reckless endangerment, disorderly conduct and trespassing. He identified himself to police as Raymond Mauhammad, 41.

Police said he is the same man who hung over the East River for more than an hour Aug. 1 before officers convinced him to come down. He described himself at the time as "Megaman" and "America's No. 1 stunt man."

Although the Brooklyn stunt was apparently his first, he said then his name was Ramond Masa, but gave police the different name when arrested Monday. The man lowered himself from the George Washington Bridge's upper level shortly before 6 a.m. (1000 GMT), and within an hour was about 30 metres from the Hudson River. The bridge is a vital crossing for long distance as well as commuter motorists. He carried what looked like a United Nations flag, and set off smoke bombs while banging over the water, according to the port authority of New York and New Jersey, which owns the bridge.

"I was about 30 metres from the Hudson River. The bridge is a vital crossing for long distance as well as commuter motorists. He carried what looked like a United Nations flag, and set off smoke bombs while banging over the water, according to the port authority of New York and New Jersey, which owns the bridge."

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Pretoria offers Namibia amnesty

WINDHOEK (R) — South Africa has agreed to grant full amnesty to about 41,000 Namibian exiles due to return home next month, the top United Nations official in the territory said Tuesday.

Martti Ahtisaari, special representative in Namibia of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, said the amnesty would speed up the return of the exiles who fled Namibia under South African rule.

He told a news conference it had removed a major hurdle in the transition to independence.

"We are very pleased to have got a total amnesty... this resulted from lengthy and very detailed discussions," he said.

Ahtisaari said new South African legislation granting the amnesty had been signed by President P.W. Botha and would be passed into law next week.

Nicholas Bwakira, who heads the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Namibia, said the first of the refugees — more than 1,000 — would begin arriving at three centres in Namibia Monday.

Most of them have been living in exile in neighbouring Angola and Zambia.

Many of the refugees are supporters of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), which fought a 23-year-old guerrilla war against South Africa.

can rule in Namibia.

Fighters from SWAPO's military wing, the People's Liberation Army of Namibia, will not be included among the Namibians to be repatriated by the UNHCR.

"They will be repatriated under a different process to be administered by... Ahtisaari," Bwakira said.

Ahtisaari also told the news conference that South Africa had agreed to pass another law scrapping the last vestiges of racial discrimination in Namibia, which could hinder free elections to be supervised by the U.N. Nov. 1.

South African officials in Windhoek said they hoped the new legislation would be passed Tuesday or Wednesday next week.

'At least 50 nuclear bombs litter ocean floor'

By Bryan Brumley
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. and Soviet naval accidents have littered the ocean floor with at least 50 nuclear weapons and 10 nuclear reactors since World War II, according to a report released Tuesday by the Greenpeace environmental group.

Forty-three of the 50 weapons and six of the nine reactors are Soviet, and the real number may be much higher because so few details are known of secretive Soviet navy operations, said William Arkin, an analyst who worked with Greenpeace on the project.

"We got no information at all from the Soviets," said Arkin, who works at the Institute for Policy Studies, a liberal Washington interest group.

"We were totally unsuccessful in getting any kind of real response from them. And we were totally unsuccessful in getting any information from U.S. intelligence about Soviet naval accidents."

Using material obtained from the U.S. government under the Freedom of Information Act, the researchers listed 1,276 accidents since World War II involving military vessels.

Twenty-seven submarines powered by nuclear reactors have sunk in that period, including five Soviet, four American, four French and three British, as well as submarines from West Germany, Israel, Pakistan, Peru, Spain and Turkey, the analysts reported in their 101-page study.

Perhaps the most serious accident was the sinking of a Soviet Yankee-class submarine on Oct. 6, 1986, with 32 nuclear warheads and two nuclear reactors aboard 960 kilometres northeast of Bermuda.

More recently, a Soviet "Mike" class submarine sank off the coast of Norway in April with two nuclear reactors and two nuclear tipped torpedoes aboard, the report said.

"Between 1975-1985, according to the U.S. navy, the Soviet

Union had over 200 serious submarine accidents," according to a summary of the report.

"The Soviet Union has had more sinkings, more propulsion failures, and according to U.S. intelligence sources, more accidents than the United States."

Greenpeace earlier revealed information about two U.S. accidents that received wide publicity over the past month.

In 1965, an A-4 warplane fell off the USS Ticonderoga off Okinawa with a hydrogen bomb aboard, and on Nov. 22, 1975, a fire aboard the USS Belknap came within 12 metres of nuclear weapons.

Although the report carried the greatest detail about incidents involving U.S. vessels, its sharpest criticism was of the Soviets. Arkin said he planned to deliver a Russian-language version of the study to the Soviet embassy in Washington and would seek a meeting with Soviet officials.

"Official secrecy, particularly that of the Soviet Union, as well as sporadic news media

interest in reporting routine accidents, are major impediments to compiling a complete record," the report said.

"Of the 1,277 accidents, 799 have involved naval ships of the United States," it said. "This preponderance of U.S. accidents does not mean a higher accident rate than other navies, particularly the Soviet navy."

"Many hundreds more Soviet accidents are known to have occurred, but due to inadequate data and excessive secrecy, we have been unable to document specific dates or circumstances," it said.

Asked in a telephone interview to give an example of a Soviet naval accident in which nuclear weapons or reactors were suspected but not documented to be involved, Arkin cited the sinking of a destroyer in the Black Sea in 1974.

"A Kashin-class destroyer with 275 crewmen sank with all hands. Our speculation is that there were probably nuclear torpedoes aboard," Arkin said.

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Pope visits Denmark

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — Pope John Paul II, arriving in pouring rain Tuesday on the fourth stop of a Scandinavian tour, was greeted by Prime Minister Poul Schluter and a group of school children waving the red-and-white Danish flag.

The pontiff briefly lost his scullcap on the wet tarmac as he knelt to kiss the ground, his custom when making his first visit to a country. Unruffled, he set damp cap back on his head and went to meet Schluter on the reviewing stand.

The Pope was having a private audience with Queen Margrethe, saying mass at a convent near Copenhagen and attending evensong at the 12th century Roskilde cathedral, the burial place of the Danish royal family.

Earlier in the day, the Pope blessed the elderly and sick at an early morning prayer service in Helsinki, the Finnish capital.

Finland was the third leg of a five-nation Nordic tour that has taken the Pope to Norway and



Pope John Paul

Iceland. The Roman Catholic church is in minority throughout the region, which also includes Denmark and Sweden.

As the Pope entered his plane at Helsinki airport, a small group of Pentecostals held up a banner protesting the papal visit.

Although Finland is an overwhelmingly Lutheran country, with 4,200 Catholics among a population of five million, the Pope received a warm welcome and visibly enjoyed the visit.

During an ecumenical prayer meeting Monday in Turku, on the southwest coast, Lutheran Archbishop John Vikstrom stressed the importance of the papal visit.

OAS pursues Panama solution

WASHINGTON (AP) — Organisation of American States (OAS) foreign ministers are reconvening for a renewal of their discussions on the Panama situation with an eye on resolving that country's political crisis by Sept. 1.

Ministers from the 31-nation body dispatched Secretary General Joao Baena Soares and three other envoys to Panama late last month with a mandate to carry out a democratic "transfer of power" there following the failed election process of May 7.

The envoys made little progress and were expected to seek authority from the OAS ministers Tuesday to make a return trip to Panama.

The administration of U.S. President George Bush has been at the forefront of a faction advocating the removal of Manuel Antonio Noriega but generally has looked to the Latin OAS members to take the initiative.

The OAS resolution approved at a May 17 meeting blamed Noriega for the "abuses and

grave events" which occurred during the country's electoral process a month ago.

Diplomatic discussions continued late into the evening Monday and were resumed Tuesday as delegates attempted to come up with a new resolution on Panama.

Secretary of State James Baker discussed the situation Monday evening with Baena Soares and Ecuadorian Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez, one of the foreign ministers who serve on the mediating team. The others are from Trinidad and Costa Rica.

One U.S. official said it is imperative that the OAS keep pressure on Noriega. The official, who asked not to be identified, said Sept. 1 was being viewed as a "guideline" because Panama is scheduled, under its constitution, to change presidents that day.

Just who the new president would be is unclear since the Noriega-dominated electoral tribunal in Panama annulled the May 7 election three days after it was held.

Babangida undeterred by violent protests

LAGOS (Agencies) — President Ibrahim Babangida has vowed to pursue the stringent economic policies that led to last week's violent, nationwide demonstrations.

Speaking at Monday's opening of the armed forces consultative assembly in Nigeria's new capital, Babangida said there was no viable alternative to the new economic programme.

Austerity measures instituted recently by the military government were demanded by Western creditors and have led to sharp price hikes for some basic goods and services.

Those price increases touched off a violent student demonstration at a university in the midwestern city of Benin on May 24 and rioting spread to most parts of Nigeria last week.

A Lagos newspaper, Punch, reported Sunday that 50 people had died nationwide in a six-day series of violent clashes between police and demonstrators.

Babangida has called off an official visit to France two days before his scheduled arrival in Paris.

A Nigerian official in the French capital told Reuters the June 7-10 visit, the first by a Nigerian leader, had been postponed at the request of the Lagos government.

Information Minister Tony Momoh later confirmed in Lagos that the official visit to France was off. "I can tell you that the president is not going," he told Reuters.

He said he could not give any reason for the move.

A Nigerian police chief Monday ordered an investigation of



Ibrahim Babangida

the reports that 50 bodies were delivered to a city centre hospital mortuary after last week's violent protests.

Police have maintained an official death toll of eight in the latest disturbances in Ketu, an outlying suburb of Lagos.

Foreign journalists beaten up, booted around in Peking melee

By John Pomfret
The Associated Press

PEKING — Foreign journalists covering the martial crackdown in Peking have been shot, beaten and detained by Chinese troops in an attempt to quell reporting of one of the darkest pages in communist China's history.

A Japanese reporter was shot in the foot and a French journalist was hit by a bullet in the back while both were mingling with crowds near Tiananmen Square. Both are recovering.

The U.S. television reporter was roughed up and detained for a day. A reporter for the British wire service, Reuters, was blindfolded and held for six hours. Troops also beat two other British reporters.

Another British journalist was forced to kneel in front of troops who beat him with sticks. A Chinese propaganda team took photographs of the incident and one of them yanked off the journalist's glasses, crushing them under his feet.

At least six photojournalists have had their equipment confiscated or smashed on the pavement by troops.

Most of the incidents occurred Saturday and early Sunday when many reporters were on the streets, covering the bloodshed that left hundreds of unnamed Chinese dead. By Sunday night, however, many of the journalists had confined themselves to hotels.

Those who did venture out found a city under siege. Travelling was done best by

bicycle, through the cramped back alleys of the inner city.

Monday and Tuesday, troops occupied main intersections but during the day let pedestrians and cyclists pass. Troops at one intersection scrambled to the top of a tank when an Associated Press reporter pedalled by, but they did not attempt to stop him.

Foreign reporters have been welcomed by the citizens of Peking, who unanimously oppose the army's occupation of their city.

"Let the world know about what is happening to us," said one woman as troops sprayed automatic weapons fire at crowd of demonstrators. "Let the whole world know that our government has gone mad."

Reliable information is hard

to come by.

The Chinese press is in the hands of those carrying out the crackdown. State-run radio Monday claimed that "not one person died on Tiananmen Square," scene of student's three-week pro-democracy occupation.

Although it was not known how many casualties occurred in the central square, estimates put the death toll anywhere between 500 and 12,000 city-wide.

The Chinese Red Cross refuses to answer questions on the death toll and hospitals rarely have complete statistics.

On the street, Chinese surround foreign reporters, asking them for any information about what is happening in their city.

"We have no other choice," said one man, standing near a

burning bus. "Our media is run by bandits. News about our own country has become another imported item."